

MURDER By An ARISTOCRAT

Mignon G. Eberhart

The girl nodded.
"Is this the nurse?"
"Miss Keate. Mrs. Dave Thatcher," said Miss Adela. "Are you sure it was all right to leave Bayard, Janice?"

"Quite all right," said Janice briefly, looking steadily at me. "He is going to get well. It isn't anything serious."

Something about her, intangible yet positive and definite, too, told me that she had just had some sort of shock. Probably it was a scarcely definable air of rigidly maintained poise, a look of emotions held sternly in leash. At any rate, I knew it at once.

It was just then that it struck me for the first time that 2 o'clock of a summer morning is an unusual time to be cleaning a revolver.

Both women had been looking steadily at me, and even as I became aware of the odd intensity of their scrutiny, they exchanged between themselves a communicative glance.

"Miss Keate will do very well," said Janice.

"Yes, I'm sure of it," returned Adela Thatcher in a reassured way.

They both looked, I thought, subtly approving. And I didn't see any reason particularly to approve of the appearance of a sleepy, middle-aged nurse who is stouter and crankier than she likes to admit.

Then Miss Adela's faded blue eyes went past me to a door farther along the corridor and became suddenly bleak.

"Where is Dave?"
A little veil dropped over Janice's dark eyes, and she said crisply: "I don't know, I'm sure," and opened the door beside us.

I followed them into a large, airy bedroom with long open windows. A bedroom of fresh ruffled chintz, heavy old mahogany dresser and bed, gleaming floors, and ivory-painted woodwork. On the wide bed lay my patient, Bayard Thatcher. His eyes were closed, but he opened them as I approached, looked narrowly at me past his arrogant Thatcher nose, said, "Hell," quite distinctly, and closed his eyes again.

Well, of course, 3 o'clock in the morning is a trying hour, and I am no beauty at best. Still, I must admit his candor affected me most disagreeably.

Janice caught her breath sharply.

"Bayard! This is your nurse, Miss Keate."

"I know it," he said, still with his sunken eyes closed and his hard dark face and thinning brownish hair very vivid against the white pillows. "Listen, Adela, I don't need a nurse. It's only a scratch. Doctor can dress it every day."

"There's a bedroom next door if you'd like to change into your uniform, Miss Keate," said Adela, ignoring Bayard in the blandest way in the world. "Show her, Janice. Dr. Bouigny left a note over there on the table for you. I think he gave Bayard something to make him sleep." Her gentle, deliberate voice stopped without a period, and she moved with a soft whisper of silk to make some adjustment of the sheets.

Well—that was my introduction to the Thatcher house and household. A house which in its dim fragrance, its gracious dignity, its feeling of ancestry, its every evidence of an age when family tradition was held in honor, was to grow as familiar to me as the palm of my own hand. And a household which—no, I can't say it became familiar to me: There were things about the Thatchers which I

accepted but never understood—but which was to engage and hold my strongest interest. Adela, perhaps, in her dignity, her tenacity, her strongly maternal feeling toward her two brothers, Dave and Hilary, and her determined effort to preserve an unbroken surface of amity toward the world, I came the nearest to understanding. It was only toward the last that I really knew Janice.

When I returned to my patient's room, my fresh white uniform rustling and a starched cap concealing the gray streak in my abundant reddish hair, Janice had gone, and Miss Adela, with a parting word about the doctor's orders, soon left us. I glanced at the chart Dr. Bouigny had left, noted a few directions, took my patient's pulse, which was only a little over normal, and his temperature, which was barely 99, looked at the dressing on the wound, and settled myself at length in a comfortable chair near one of the open windows, yawned and relaxed. While a nurse is quite accustomed to being called from her sleep at all hours of the night, still, it never grows pleasant.

The house was very silent, and I could hear the waking calls of the birds in the trees outside very clearly. It was growing lighter, so I turned out the lamp at my elbow. In the quiet semi-gloom my patient appeared to sleep, and his sharp profile looked dark and hawk-like. His face was narrow and thin with deeply sunken eyes, rather high cheek bones, a high forehead, and a thin mouth. It was neither a kind nor a lovable face; his eyes were set a little too close together above that arrogantly curved nose, his thin mouth had a sardonic look even in sleep. It was altogether a relentless face. I thought a moment and changed the word: It was a predatory face.

"You don't like my looks?"

"I wasn't thinking anything about your looks," I said, startled. His eyes were a peculiar light yellow-gray, which looked very light in his dark face, and it had taken me a little by surprise to discover that he'd been watching me all the while I stared at his mouth and hunted for a word to suit it. "You must go back to sleep again."

"I don't want to sleep. The doctor's pills are as ineffective as everything else about him. Do you know Dr. Bouigny?"

"Slightly. He's brought a few cases to the hospital. The nurses call him Dr. Boion—I checked myself, but he smiled again.

"Dr. Boloney, of course. Irresistible to the average young woman's mentality. But in this case quite applicable. He is also—" he continued in a leisurely way that was not exactly nice—"he is also a piece of cheese, a feather bed, and a Thatcher." His unpleasant light eyes went past me to the elms outside the window, which were beginning to glow in the coming sunlight.

"A Thatcher?"
"A Thatcher. And therefore blessed. When a Thatcher is born the key to heaven is automatically placed in his hand."

"You'd better go to sleep."
"Our doctor's mother was a Thatcher. Several times removed from the present incumbents of the honor, but still a Thatcher. And to be a Thatcher—"

"You must try to sleep," I said crisply. "If you keep talking, your pulse will go up and you'll get a fever. We don't want any trouble with that wound."

He smiled.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

No Record of Birth; Marriage Hampered

Klein-Streitz, Germany —(UP)— It is a well known fact that one has to produce his birth certificate in Germany for practically everything, and above all of course, for getting married.

So it came to pass here recently that a man wishing to marry a local girl found, to his chagrin, that she had never been officially born. Her father had failed to register her birth. The father meanwhile had died, and the

mother, though alive and admittedly in the best position to know something about the matter, was not regarded as competent.

Eventually, a kindly judge, willing to accept the evidence of his own eyes, rescued the young couple from their vale of tears and enabled the wedding to proceed.

The One Thorn.
From The Humorist.

"So your sister is married. Is she happy?"

"Yes, very. The only thing that annoys her is her husband."

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

EARLIER MELONS

As a result of several years' experiments, growers have perfected a system of adequate protection for young cantaloupe plants against late frosts in spring, and the past two years ripe melons were shipped to the market 15 days earlier than any known record. The ground is prepared by ridging the rows two feet high, and the cantaloupe seed distributed by planter on the south slope of rows, eight to twelve seeds to a hill. No. 16 wire, cut in two-foot lengths, is placed above the planted seed, the ends thrust into the ground to form an arc; over this glassine paper, 18 by 20 inches, is drawn and folded to form a cap, the edges buried in the soil. At thinning time, the cap is removed, two plants are left, the cap is replaced and three edges of the paper are re-covered; the rest side of the cap is left open to allow the plant air. The weather bureau took temperature tests that tended to prove that the paper caps conserved the heat of the sun's rays and increased the growing temperature 15 to 20 degrees. To further protect the young plants against night winds that retard growth, and to speed up the formation of the melons on the vines, an additional protection is furnished by the use of tule mats, set as windbreaks along the rows. Government tests recorded that a further increase in growing temperature of from 20 to 25 degrees was thus gained. Also, that a prolonged growing time of more than an hour each evening after sundown was added because of the heat concentrated in the tule reeds and transmitted to the ground about the plants. This method proved to be a complete protection for the young cantaloupe plants this past season against temperatures of 17 degrees above zero, when ice formed an eighth of an inch thick. When the melons "net" the tule mats are removed, rolled up and stacked in the field. They will endure three years of wear and handling.

CHECK THOSE WORMS

While it is not the most economical way to produce pork, many farmers follow the practice, after weaning their spring pigs, of turning them into a pasture for two or three months, with very little grain. The theory back of the practice is that the pigs need a period of growing — producing a good frame — before starting the fattening process. Those who do not feed a protein supplement with grain to pigs may find this pasture period with little grain advantageous, for by limiting the grain more grass is eaten, helping to supply the protein which the pigs need. On the other hand, those who supply the pigs with all the protein they need, find it more economical to full-feed pigs intended for market from weaning time on or before till ready to go to market. Spring pigs that were fed a restricted grain ration during the summer months are being fattened this time of year, and a large percentage of them are infested with worms. One would think that with the great publicity given raising pigs free from worms, few wormy pigs would be found on farms nowadays. Unfortunately, such is not the case. As a matter of fact, by far the largest percentage of the pigs raised are wormy and should be thoroughly treated before they are placed on a fattening ration. A large proportion of our swine troubles trace either directly or indirectly to heavy worm infestation. Worms reduce the vitality of the pigs and thus lower their resistance to disease. If you have pigs that have been "growing out" this summer, as many refer to that process of supplying them with half grain ration, be sure that you give them a thorough worming before putting them on a fattening ration. Returns from feed consumed will be much larger when the pigs are free from this pest.

USING LIGHTS

The falling off in egg production at this time of year may be generally lessened by the use of artificial light in the hen house during the early morning and evening. With egg prices unusually good at this time of year, the farmer will be repaid well for his time and money if he lights the laying house correctly. Many people do not realize that as the days become shorter the hen does not have as much time to eat, scratch and exercise as she had during the summer. This has a distinct bearing on egg production, due largely to less feed consumption. Electric lights may be used to great advantage in keeping the egg production up to normal, providing they are installed in the right way. A house 20 by 20 feet should be lighted by one 40 watt light with a reflector, so located that the light is cast down on the mash hopper and not directly on the roost. The birds can then come off the roost to feed and return to the roost in the dark area with little inconvenience. Three systems are followed by poultrymen in lighting hen houses: a morning light alone, a morning and evening light, or an all night light. For average conditions, the morning light system is usually the best system.

FEEDING GROUND GRAIN

While it is necessary to grind all grains for dairy cows, in order to secure the most satisfactory returns, and the small grains for hogs, it has been demonstrated that coarsely ground grain gives better returns than finely ground grain. At one western experiment station it was found that grinding barley to a fineness of one-sixteenth of an inch with a hammer type mill cost 81 cents per cwt., while a fineness of three-sixteenths of an inch cost only 2.23 cents per cwt. Furthermore, coarsely ground grain, fed to

tem to use. This consists of turning the light on at about 4 a. m. and allowing them to burn until full daylight. Feed should always be available — plenty of scratch in the litter and lots of mash in the hopper — when the birds get up in the morning, as this is the object in getting them up. The cost of current used is practically negligible and an increase of one to two eggs a day will pay for the use of the one 40-watt globa. Whenever lights are used, close attention should be given to the hens to see that they are responding well to the early rising and are eating plenty of feed. One should appreciate in using lights that fall and winter egg production is stimulated at the expense of spring production. Total yearly production is affected very little. The importance in lighting during the short winter days lies in the fact that the greatest number of eggs are laid at the time when eggs are selling highest.

WHAT MAKES PROFITS?

Several of the agricultural colleges have analyzed the business records of a large number of poultry farms and the poultry enterprises on general farms. Some of these records extend back for 10 and even 15 years. There are two outstanding items that make the individual flock more or less profitable than the average. The most important item is the number of eggs produced in each during a year. The number of eggs produced was a much more important item in determining the cost of each dozen of eggs produced than the cost of feeding the hens. It would seem to answer rather clearly the often heard statement, "With eggs so cheap, I quit feeding mash. I couldn't afford it." If the poultrymen who pay feed prices much higher than in the corn belt found the number of eggs laid much more important in determining profit than cost of ration, the same should be true with us. The second outstanding thing shown by these records is death loss in the laying flock. This is one of the largest items of cost in egg production. While a high feed cost frequently goes with the most profitable flocks, a high mortality and depreciation charge is almost always found in connection with the flocks showing high cost per dozen of eggs produced and low profit, or maybe none at all. A small death loss between hatching and maturity has been achieved often enough so that the necessary steps are pretty well known and followed by many. Holding the death loss below 10 per cent from the time the pullets get into production and until the bulk are sold, eight to twelve months later, would seem easy. According to these eastern records, this performance is raising 90 per cent of the chicks hatched to maturity.

FEEDING MILK POWDER

Dairymen who are selling whole milk at a fairly good price sometimes cannot afford to skim any of the milk in order to get skim milk for the calves. At least that is the conclusion of one experimental station. For the past few months, says the expert in charge we have not been skimming the milk and have substituted dry skim milk powder for the calves with very satisfactory results. The use of dry skim milk powder will usually not be practical except for the dairymen who are selling whole milk. The use of dry skim milk powder in place of skim milk for calves may be practical only at certain seasons of the year when the price differential — in selling whole milk — operates in the dairymen's favor. One pound of dry skim milk powder will replace about nine or ten pounds of skim milk. With this in mind, and knowing the price at which he can purchase the powder and the price at which his whole milk sells, a dairyman can readily determine whether he is justified in buying the powder. Mix the dry powder with hot water at the rate of one pound of dry powder to each nine pounds of water. When this has cooled sufficiently it if fed to the calves in the same way as ordinary skim milk and seems to be equally as good a feed.

CARE OF SEEDS

Whenever you save seeds, write on the tin-box labels or on the envelopes in which you put them the name and the locality and moisture and light conditions under which the parent plants were growing. Seeds that ripen in papery capsules — like columbine — should be shelled immediately; there is a spray little insect in the pod that, if you're not quick, cleans up the seeds.

FEEDING MILK WITH GRAIN

Skim milk and buttermilk are good protein foods and when fed with grain at the rate of 3 pounds to 1 are fine for balancing the ration. Other animal proteins such as tankage and fish meal are better in the hog ration than vegetable proteins such as tch oil meal.

FEED YOUR GRAINS

Livestock still is the basic strength of the farm. Hogs and cattle always have been and always will be the quickest and best assets of the farmer.

both dairy cows and hogs, resulted in better gains than finely ground grain. In no case, when grinding was necessary for best results, did the finer grinding prove to be as satisfactory as the coarser grinding.

ALSO MORTGAGE LIFTER

The hog is the Red Cross Animal of Agriculture, and each far-seeing farmer produces about the same number of swine every year, marketing his grain on four legs at a better average price than the fellow who sells it in sacks or bulk.

Good Health Advice for Girl in Teens

By Amelia H. Grant, M. A., R. N., Director Bureau of Nursing, N. Y. City Department of Health.

Your mental attitude has much to do with your bodily health. For that reason you must keep your mind healthy. The control of the mind and nervous system over the body is both conscious and unconscious.

Human behavior is affected more or less as the body gives way to impulses and animal instincts, or as it is controlled by the will. Proper mental control enables a girl to make her body her servant rather than her master.

By reading good books, by wholesome companionship, by clean conversation and by inspiring environment you build up a clean mental attitude, and a clean mind begets a healthy mind. Your success in life often depends upon the kind of exercise you give your mind, somewhat in the same way as muscular power depends upon adequate physical exercise. When you have developed the power of self control, your life is your own.

You must cultivate a healthy mind, will power and self control in your adolescence. In your later years it will be much more difficult, if not too late.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are best for liver bowels and stomach. One little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.—Adv

Time's Change

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