

WITH THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS

THE ADULTERATED FOOD PAIL.

In the stomach lies the weakness or strength of a nation. It is the power house in which energy is generated for the whole system, and its value as such is too lightly regarded by the average dweller in a great city. Poor abused, overtaxed and neglected stomach, very often the victim of unhygienic cooking at home and the indigestible blight of the average restaurant outside! Added to this, the domestic and foreign adulteration of foods has reached such alarming proportions that the government has stepped in to do what it can toward safeguarding the national stomach.

It will be cheering news to every devoted housewife and every patient husband to learn that the department of agriculture will establish in this and other cities stations for examining imported foods and detecting adulterations. Already it has been discovered that the generously distended and succulent imported frankfurter is made of horseflesh of a decidedly suspicious quality. Other impositions equally bad have been brought to light. Choice pate de foie gras, for instance, proves to be only poor veal so doctored as to deceive the unsophisticated palate.

And yet this nation does not make staple food of sausages or pate de foie gras; but the danger and the fraud of the thing are no less diminished. Nor does all the danger threaten from abroad. It has been discovered that home manufacturers are not blameless, and that even in little things like pepper, salt, coffee, sugar and spices adulterations are carried on to an amazing extent. Even the field of the industrious bee is invaded, and tons of spurious honey are turned out each year.—New York Evening Telegram.

COURAGE IN WAR.

In the great naval battles that have occurred in the east, as in the great land battles, no doubt the Russians died game. So did the Japanese, so do the common soldiers and sailors of many semi-civilized and many barbarian peoples. No people in the world meet death with more nonchalance, or more grim stoicism than the Turks or our North American Indians. To die recklessly in battle is a common trait, and argues no special nobility of character. Least of all does it give any indication of the righteousness of a cause, or possession of the traits that make for the glory of a nation in peace. To have a bulldog's fearless pugnacity does not demonstrate the possession of Christian, or even of moral virtues. Bad men have it in common with the best men.—Boston Herald.

FOREST GROWING IN PRAIRIE STATES.

The American Government Bureau of Forestry has selected two widely separated sections of the treeless area of the West for a study in artificial forestry during the present season. A field force is at work studying the soils and the kind of timber best adapted to the States of Illinois and the two Dakotas, the former being a low, level prairie for the most part, and the latter, a high table-land but both without trees, except along the streams. There has been considerable private tree planting in both states chiefly, however, on a small scale, and for purposes of shade and shelter for farm buildings.

The forestry bureau is making a study of the subject, with a view to the encouragement of tree planting on a more extensive scale. Two purposes are to be furthered by this: One, the growth of timber suitable for fuel, fencing and building purposes, and the other, the gradual growth of timber shelter belts at intervals sufficient to break the force of the fierce winds that sweep across these plains. Some experiments in this line have demonstrated two very important benefits, the one being that the winter wheat, protected by these shelter belts survives, where otherwise it would be blown bare and killed. The other demonstrated advantage is that in the drouth seasons the sheltered land retains moisture much longer than that which is wind swept. As great portions of the treeless sections of the American West have a deficient rainfall at best, the importance of retarding evaporation can hardly be over-estimated.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

THE END OF ARMIES.

We may be on the verge of the millennium, for M. Emile Guarin has come to the conclusion that it will soon be possible to destroy armies by lightning. He has experimented with the Ruhmkorff coil and found that shocks can be transmitted through the air with moderate currents.

This great experimenter concludes that the energy of 1,000 horse power, at 100,000 volts could be concentrated by antennae to destroy life at a distance of 12 miles. The present difficulty which he believes will soon be overcome is that of controlling and directing the electric waves.

When it gets so that science will exterminate an army by electric waves we shall soon see the end.—Boston Globe.

VERSATILITY NOT RECOGNIZED.

When I dub Whistler an immortal writer, a mean precisely that so long as there are people interested in the subtle ramifications of English prose as an art, so long will there be a few constantly recurring readers of "The Gentle Art," writes Max Beerbohm in the Metropolitan. There are in England, at this moment, a few people to whom prose appeals as an art. But none of them, I think, has yet done justice to Whistler's prose. None has taken it with the seriousness it deserves. I am not surprised. When a man can express himself through two media, people tend to take him lightly in his use of the medium to which he devotes the lesser time and energy, even though he use that medium not less admirably than the other, and even though they themselves care about it more than they care about the other. Perhaps this very preference in them creates a prejudice against the man who does not share it, and so makes them skeptical of his power. Anyhow, if Disraeli had been unable to express himself through the medium of political life, Disraeli's novels would long ago have had the hue which the expert is just beginning to give him. Had Rossetti not been primarily a poet, the expert in painting would have acquired long ago his present penetration into the peculiar value of Rossetti's painting. Likewise, if Whistler had never painted a picture, and even so, had written no more than he actually did write, this essay in appreciation would have been forestalled again and again.

THE PARTRIDGE.

The partridge has long been in favor as a breakfast food, and as splendid nourishment for the sick and well, but he is now coming into wide favor and renown as the farmer's friend. He is a candidate for the high perch of national bird. His partisans assure us that he is a stout ally of the American husbandman, and a much more active defender of American agriculture and prosperity than the proud, high-flying eagle. Ornithologists who, under government auspices, have been studying the partridge, say that he is a winner. Only about one-fourth of his food is grain, 19 per cent corn, 3 per cent wheat, and the balance millet, barley, sorghum, rye and oats. He does not steal this, but gathers it after it has been lost in the field. He never pulls up sprouted grain after the fashion of the crow. He does not rob orchards, though he is fond of fruit, eating wild grapes, dewberries, and wild strawberries. His long suit is as weed seed and insect eater. He is a glutton for seeds of the smart weed, pig weed, sheep sorrel and rag weed. He has a passion for the potato bug, the ladybird bug, the chinch bug, the bean beetle, cucumber beetle, army worm, cut worm, cotton worm, locust and other crop destroyers. In many states the partridge is now being taken into close communion by the farmers instead of being treated as an outlaw. May he flourish and multiply.—Washington Star.

RAILROAD CASUALTIES.

The railway casualties in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1903, were 86,393—9,840 killed and 76,553 injured. One passenger was killed for every 1,957.441 carried and one injured for every 84,421 carried. For each passenger killed 58,917.645 passenger miles were accomplished and for each injured 2,541,096 passenger miles. One employee in every 364 was killed and one in every twenty-two injured. America could fight one big battle like that of Liao Yang each year and yet suffer no more deaths and casualties than she is now suffering from railroad accidents.—Kansas City Journal.

NAMING THE HOME.

Home is the resort of love, of joy, of peace and plenty, where, supported and supported, polished friends and dear relations mingle into bliss, says the old poet Thompson, and if the home place or the summer cottage is not named, a christening party will afford a unique entertainment during the closing days of summer, for at no other gathering can one's individuality be more evident or one's originality be given greater scope, writes Bernice Glenn in the Pilgrim.

The keynote of business success is to make the name of one's work favorably known to the world; and every fruit grower and farmer should have some distinguishing brand by which his products are known. So it is a pretty idea to have one's home bear a distinguishing if not distinguished appellation—something typical or indicative of the locality if it be at the coast or in the mountains or suggestive of peculiar environment or local tradition.

Familial characteristics can frequently be symbolized by a coined or compound word very apropos, but where one is afraid to venture into such originality there is always Indian lore to draw from or in the southern and western states the Spanish phraseology offers significant as well as melodious terms.

APPEALS TO THE CHARITABLE.

London Hospital's Effective Method of Soliciting Contributions.

London hospital, the biggest of all the great city's charitable institutions for afflicted humanity, always has been famed for its ingenious methods of appealing to public support, but its latest device surpasses them all and doubtless will be copied in America.

It is in the form of a clock, on the face of which appears the announcement that the hospital has to collect one penny—two cents—per second, and on the pedestal is an invitation



to the visitor to defray the cost of the institution for that brief period. When the penny is dropped in the slot it sets some internal mechanism in operation by which the clock hand is advanced and the contribution recorded.

The secretary hopes shortly to add a phonograph to the machine, which will acknowledge every gift with a hearty "Thank you," the voice being that of the King.

Oil Tree of China.

Five years ago the attention of American importers was called to the value as an astringent and drier in varnish, for the finer kinds of furniture, of the product of the Chinese wood oil tree.

Since then two American firms have established branches at Hankow, China, for the exportation of the oil, and one of them has shipped nearly 200,000 gallons since last fall. Because of the fact that no barrels are manufactured in the province where the oil tree grows, a Hankow firm has imported from New York shooks for 5,000 barrels and machinery for setting them up. About a thousand seeds of the oil tree have been planted in California and are doing well.—Manufacturers' Record.

London Police-Dwellers.

The London police made a discovery the other day on the land that has lately been opened up for re-



building between the Strand and Holborn—the site of Gen. Booth's temporary barracks. The cellars of the old houses had not been demolished, and many men and boys retired to them, and with bundles of old newspapers and newspaper bills to serve as pillows, used to sleep comfortably till the morning. The police found out what was going on, and now the cellars are no longer used as bedrooms.

Ran into Big School of Mackerel.

Schooner Normahel recently arrived at Gloucester with the exceptionally fine fare of 327 barrels of salt mackerel. The remarkable feature of the catch is that the whole fare was taken at one setting of the seine from the biggest school that Capt. Parsons ever saw. The net itself gave way under the enormous strain and fully as many fish were lost as were taken.

New Scheme in Business.

A novel scheme for getting orders is to be tried by a Salem provision dealer. He has announced that he will dispense with order wagons, drivers of which have gone about town getting orders for provisions every morning, and that he will supply housekeepers with postal cards, upon which these orders may be written, and if mailed at night will be filled early the next morning.

Bears Beautiful Roses.

Mrs. Harriet Littlehale of South Sutton, N. H., has a house rose bush, such as is rarely seen anywhere. The leaves of the plant are of a rich green, thick and waxy in texture. One blossom measured 13 inches in circumference and others are nearly as large. The petals of the flower are like wax and of a rich cream-white and pink, flushed at the heart.

IN PRISON SINCE 1870.

Convict in Ohio Penitentiary Has No Desire for Freedom.

John Taborn, the oldest man in the penitentiary in point of service, commenced his thirty-fourth year behind the grim walls on Aug. 16. He was received on Aug. 16, 1870, from Delaware county, to serve a life sentence. He is one of the few men behind the walls who fully realize that the world has passed him and that he would not know how to make a living even if granted his freedom.

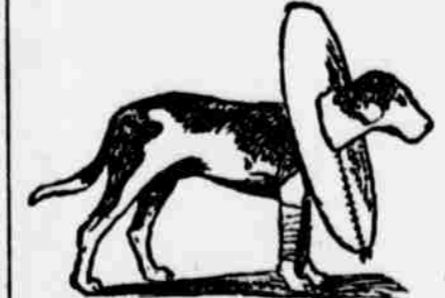
Taborn has been asked a number of times if he does not desire his freedom, and always declines. In fact, he becomes somewhat excited if the matter is discussed at length. He has been behind the prison walls so long that he has vagaries of the mind, to speak mildly. One of his hallucinations is that he makes trips outside the walls, and he sometimes tells remarkable stories of the incidents that happen on these trips.

For a number of years he has been an inmate of the prison asylum for insane, where he is permitted to go about as he pleases. Ordinarily he is sound of mind, but occasionally he has visions of trips taken about the country, and on a few occasions he has visited other countries, in his mind.

The prison officials believe that his long service in the prison has made him immune from work, and he puts in the most of his time in making trinkets which are sold to any person who desires to purchase.—Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch.

Protective Collars for Dogs.

When a dog has sustained a wound to a limb and the limb has been bound up, it is often a difficult matter to prevent the animal from removing the bandage, or at all events from dis-



WOUNDED DOG WEARING THE PROTECTIVE COLLAR.

placing it. This, of course, makes the healing process of much longer duration than if the bandages were left untouched. To prevent the dog from irritating the wound English veterinary surgeons fit round the animal's neck a collar made of stiff cardboard or oiled, which effectually keeps the dog's teeth and tongue at a distance.

Grecian Sisters Fight Duel.

All fashionable Athens is gossiping about a sensational occurrence which took place a short time ago in the family of a wealthy Greek merchant. A handsome young Englishman was one of the parties concerned. The Englishman, who was on intimate terms with the merchant's family, had unwittingly captured the hearts of the two pretty daughters of the house. Some preference shown by the son of Albion for the younger maiden led to an embittered quarrel, which culminated in a duel. After the family had retired to rest, the girls rose from their beds, and taking their brothers' swords, proceeded in their nightgowns to the garden. There in the moonlight they began to fight. Fortunately for the fair duellists, their weapons were too heavy to be wielded with much effect, and when one sister, slightly wounded in the breast, shrieked, their father came on the scene and stopped the duel.

Printed by Franklin.

Dr. James H. Canfield, librarian of Columbia University, has just received a valuable addition to the collection of Americana, says the New York Sun. It is a translation of Cicero's "Cato Major; or, De Senectute." The book was printed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1874. It bears the autograph of Thomas Heyward, Jr., one of the South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence, and it was written by James Logan, chief justice of the Province of Pennsylvania, in the early part of the eighteenth century.

In the opinion of Franklin, the book is the earliest translation of a classic in the Western Hemisphere. The volume opens with an introduction by Franklin, entitled "The Printer to the Reader."

New Roller Skate.

The latest design in roller skates is believed to greatly reduce the labor of this once popular form of exercise. The foot rests near the ground and is supported by two large



wheels. The increase in the diameter of the wheels, as compared with those of the ordinary form of roller skate, greatly increases the speed, while it reduces the amount of energy required.

First Wedding in Old Church.

For the first time since it was erected thirty-eight years ago, the Union church at Big Cranberry island, Me., was the scene of a wedding last week. And even then the contracting young people were from Massachusetts, though the island was the girlhood home of the bride.

SCIENCE and INVENTION

Convenient Trunk.

Everybody has helped to pack a trunk at some time or other, and the most inconvenient and troublesome part of it all is the insertion of the tray, which most all trunks contain, into its proper position. It is practically impossible for one person to do this alone without vexation and hard work, and often two have trouble enough.

If all trunks were constructed like the one shown herewith all this inconvenience would be done away with and the packing simplified. The tray is supported by four bars or levers, two on each side, so arranged that when the lid of the trunk is opened the tray is elevated simultaneously with the raising of the lid. By the insertion of a number of lugs to connect with the levers the tray, when once elevated, is held firmly in that



Raises the Tray Automatically.

position and cannot slip, but must be released by the hand. When the lid is closed the bars still hold the tray in position and no stationary support is necessary within the body of the trunk. Often, when it is thought that the trunk is packed, it is suddenly remembered that some needful article has been forgotten, and what a job to haul the tray out in order to put it in some corner! This will occur a half-dozen times, which means a whole lot of trouble. With this device the opening and closing of the lid, with the consequent raising of the tray, can be done easily and quickly.

Peter Steiger of Baltimore, Md., is the patentee.

Valuable Scientific Tests.

The public which gathers around this testing plant to see a locomotive which, while it is standing still, is doing its carefully measured work of hauling a large or small train at a low or high speed, as the investigators require, thinks that this is all being done that it may "see the wheels go round." The engineer and the railway man see in it a new era of technical study. Over the panting, tugging locomotive twenty-five or more men are engaged in observing what is going on inside of it, what work it is doing for the fuel consumed, what weaknesses it is developing and what good points. When their computations are completed they can say with accuracy what the locomotive can do and at what cost. They are gaining information which, expressed in technical terms, is invaluable for the locomotive designer of the future. It means in its ultimate results the obtaining of the greatest amount of work for the least expenditure, and a consequent reduction in the cost of transportation. This kind of scientific investigation is of the utmost economic value. The greatest technical societies are assisting through advisory committees, and the results of the tests will therefore meet with universal acceptance. Twelve of the most important types of recent locomotives are to be tested during the exposition and the results published to the world.—W. A. Smith in the World To-Day.

Silver Plating Liquid.

A liquid by means of which articles of brass, copper, etc., may be plated with silver without the use of a battery is prepared thus: Dissolve one ounce of nitrate of silver in crystals in twelve ounces of soft water, then add two ounces of cyanide of potassium. Shake the whole together and let it stand till it becomes clear. Have ready some half ounce bottles and fill them half full of Paris white or fine whiting, and then fill them up with the liquid, and it is ready for use. The metal to which it is applied must be perfectly free from grease, otherwise it will not hold. If the articles are at all greasy they should be boiled in lye, then washed in pure water. In any case the coating obtained with this liquid is not as tenacious to the metal as when deposited by means of a battery. The liquid is very poisonous and should be handled with great caution.

Measures Powers of Motors.

Col. Renaud, of army aeronaut and automobile celebrity, has just performed another service for automobilism. There has been laid before the French Academy of Science an ingenious contrivance invented by him for measuring the power of motors. It is an apparatus which is attached to the axle-tree of the motor, and as the action developed is in proportion to the cube of the speed, it is enough to register the number of revolutions in order to determine the speed, and self-registering tablets are provided to obviate all necessity for making calculations. The apparatus is capable of registering up to 150 horse power.

Not for Us.

Rev. Goodman—You know what the "golden rule" is, of course? Pyrett—Oh, of course! It's a rule of conduct we lay down for other people to follow.

IMPROVEMENT FOR THE HALL.

Arrangement That is Both Useful and Ornamental.

The hall is certainly more seen, than any other part of the house, since not only can no room be gained without going through it, but the occasional visitor who gets no further has also to be reckoned with.

One difficulty to contend with is the harmless necessary hat and coat. These are a serious handicap to a pretty hall, yet we must admit that it is part of its duty to harbor them. They are generally tucked away in the darkest corner, and only dimly discerned as a bulging, unsightly mass, those in least frequent use having a fine opportunity of collecting dust.

But at very small outlay an arrangement can be made to hide and protect the hats and coats, and afford an incident pleasing rather than otherwise in the hall. Two shelves about twelve inches wide are the foundation of the affair; they are connected with a back and two sides, and the top one is fitted in front with a small



brass rod. On the bottom shelf rests the headgear of the master of the house, amply protected by the shelf and the little silk curtain hanging down in front. Below this shelf are two side pieces, and under it a strong lath is fitted, with brass hooks, whence hang coats, probably both masculine and feminine, for it is a luxury to have an old wrap handy to throw on before a turn in the garden.

A curtain of some handsome tapestry runs on a second rod across the cupboard part, and by the time some bits of old blue willow pattern, or odd pieces of brass and copper work have been stood on the top shelf the erection must be declared quite an imposing feature in the hall.

To Fasten a Kicking Cow.

A dairyman describes his method of tying the hind legs of a cow to prevent kicking while being milked, as follows:

"The method I shall describe is effective and humane, and generally only a few lessons are necessary to convince the most unruly cow that she must stand still while being milked. I take a hame strap from a harness, which is one inch wide and about two feet long. Standing on the right side of the cow, the strap is taken by the buckle end on the left and passed around the cow's left hind leg just over the gambrel; the end of the strap is brought back between the cow's legs, and is given one or two turns around itself. It is then passed in front of the right leg, brought around and securely buckled tight enough so it cannot be pulled down over the joint, but not tight enough to prevent the cow from standing comfortably as long as she behaves herself.

"The cow is not so badly frightened with her legs confined in this way as she is with one tied to the floor, and it is impossible for her to kick or lift either foot sufficiently to disturb the milker. If no harness is used she soon finds that being milked is not such an awful hardship after all, and gracefully submits."

Planting a Hedge.

E. P.—Please describe how to lay out a thorn hedge. How far apart should the plants be set?

The soil should be properly prepared before planting the hedge. Everything else should be in good condition. The soil should then be turned out into deep furrows where the hedge is to stand and the plants should be set in this and the soil drawn up to them and firmly tamped about the roots of the plants. The distance apart which the plants are to stand will depend somewhat on the style of the hedge. If a low small hedge is wanted, as one most often sees in England, the plants should be eight or nine inches apart. If the trees are to be allowed to grow larger, say five or six feet tall, the plants should be set wider apart, not less than eight or ten inches.

Chemical for Destroying Woodchucks.

C. R.—Some time ago I read of a method of destroying skunks and woodchucks by the use of a chemical placed in their burrows. Please name the chemical and describe its use.

The chemical used for killing wood chucks, etc., is the same as for destroying bugs in peas, viz., carbon bisulphide. This is a liquid which readily evaporates into gas which is heavier than air. To kill woodchucks or skunks in burrows, about two or three ounces of the chemical should be poured on to a piece of cotton waste or rag which should be thrown down the hole. The hole should then be quickly filled in with earth and well tramped down. The gas will settle to all sections of the burrow and destroy the inmates. This chemical is very inflammable, so that no fire should be brought near it when exposed.