

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

Success in this world too often means failure in the next.

If the cat had wings, no birds would be left in the air. If every one had what he wished for, who would have anything?

Nothing can hide from me the conviction that an immortal soul needs for its sustenance something more than visiting and gardening, and novel reading, and crochet needle, and the occasional manufacture of sponge-cake.

The public cannot too clearly understand that medical science has nothing more valuable to offer than its non-medical suggestions, grounded on clinical and laboratory research—health maxims which, as the Paris profligate told his doctor, "any fool knows" something of, and which it may be added, all fools decline to pay for except in bitter personal experience.

All lines of business must be run systematically in order to attain the best results. It will not do to let one thing after another pile up until one is literally overwhelmed. It is best to go through with everything in a systematic manner. Take up each item in its regular order and work well while you work. Recreation that is taken when you are conscious that you have done the work of the day faithfully is always sweetest.

More people witnessed the funeral pageant of Mayor Harrison than ever looked upon such a pageant before. At the funeral of Garfield, in Cleveland, the people had to be massed along Euclid avenue. At the funeral of General Grant, in New York, the crowds lined Broadway from the Battery to Riverside park. At Harrison's funeral the crowds filled the down-town streets, lined Jackson street for two miles, packed Ashland avenue for half a mile, and then lined Washington and Randolph for two miles, and Dearborn Street and avenue for three miles out to Lincoln Park.

The story of the operations in the Hanover gambling hell of which Duke Guenther, the brother of the German Emperor, is reported to have been a figure-head, reads like a page from the Memoirs of Barry Lyndon. It shows that fast life in the closing days of the nineteenth century does not differ much from that in the same country a hundred and fifty years ago. If the hundreds of thousands of intelligent Republicans in Germany do not make great capital of this exposure of the rottenness of the Empire and the Imperial clique, they will show that they don't know how to use a good chance.

DR. JOHNSON wisely said, "He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything." Life is made up of little things. It is but once in an age that occasion is offered for a great deed. True greatness consists in being great in little things. We should be willing to do a little good at a time, and never wait to do a great deal of good at once. If we would do much good in the world, we must be willing to do good in little things, little acts, one after another, speaking a word here, giving help there, and setting a good example at all times; we must do the first good thing we can, and then the next, and so keep on doing.

HE is dead. We shall look no more on the colossal form of Chang, the Chinese giant. The seasons may come and go with their burdens of toil and sorrow, but they will carve no more wrinkles in his saddle-colored cheek. His ears are dulled forever to the blare of fame's trumpet, and his large Mongolian heart will throb never again with sympathy for the living skeleton or the stunted dwarf that was wont in by-gone times to act as a foil to the enhancement of his own personal grandeur. Chang was not as tall by about eleven feet as he was represented on Mr. Barnum's glowing canvas, but he was altitudinous enough to extort the admiration and wonder of mankind and to earn a respectable salary. Peace to his Brobdignagian bones!

The good men of Britain are becoming alarmed over the influx of destitute foreigners which it is believed will follow the closing of the World's Fair. There appears to be no law in England by which paupers can be prevented from landing, nor can they be refused admission into the poor-houses. Already at Southampton, where several destitute Germans recently landed and have since been supported in the poor-house at the cost of the local tax-payers, the

German Consul, on being appealed to, declared that he had no funds to send paupers home, and the German Ambassador and Consul General in London made a similar answer. Englishmen are generally beginning to doubt the wisdom of slavish adherence to the old formula of "the sacred right of asylum."

WHETHER folding beds are inherently dangerous or not, the fate of Daisy Berg of Chicago is a warning that they should be carefully handled. This young woman was killed because of the playfulness of her brothers. They seized the foot of the bed upon which she was lying and pulled it suddenly to startle her. The action overbalanced the upright portion of the bed and the contrivance closed up like a jackknife, breaking the girl's neck. There have been other deaths caused by the vagaries of folding beds. Young children have been shut up in them and smothered to death, and older persons have been crushed by the upsetting of the ponderous headboards, weighted with hundreds of pounds of iron. It is evident that these space-saving contrivances must be used with the greatest care. Certainly they are extra hazardous mediums for practical joking.

REFORM may be carried too far or it may be undertaken in a spirit or by methods open to serious doubt. The "prominent ladies" of Osceola, Neb., who, for the greater glory of God, organized a White Cap band and flogged certain young women whose actions were not edifying, seem to have made a mistake. At all events they are in jail—some of them because they can't get out, others because they refuse to accept liberty on bail. The unregenerate portion of the community will no doubt entertain the hope that the pious ladies may remain in jail for some time. Salvation by the White Cap route is not attractive to the average sinner, nor even to the religionist who is not yet sufficiently sanctified to appreciate the efficacy of horsewhipping as a means of grace. The proceeding smacks too much of the methods of the late Mr. Torquemada, of pious memory, and it is to be hoped that his Osceola imitators will be brought to realize that they have made a mistake, even if it shall be necessary to keep them in jail several months to accomplish that end.

ONE of the most cunningly organized cliques of criminals ever known has been unearthed in Germany through the efforts of the German press. It is a peculiarity of crime in that country that it avails itself to the utmost of the intelligence which there abounds. Even in New York, experts have estimated that one-third of the higher criminals, whose portraits adorn the rogues' gallery, are men of good education, and the proportion is even greater in Berlin. Not only the burglars, counterfeiters, and pickpockets, but even the tramps, in that city receive systematic instruction, speak a secret lingo, and stand in constant communication with each other for mutual assistance and escape in times of danger. Such bands of lawbreakers can, of course, accomplish far more harm to property than disunited burglars or those who work in small gangs. The clique which has just been run to the ground dealt in the forgery of seals, stamps, and passports, to be used for criminal purposes. Its operations have extended over all Europe and into America for ten or a dozen years. Their discovery is one more tribute to the far reaching power of the press.

ONE of the blessings that we may possibly derive from the fiscal inconveniences from which we are suffering, is a modification of our scale of living. For the last fifteen years (says Life) we have gone on building bigger and finer houses, and spending more and more money in their maintenance and on our pleasures. All sorts of novel luxuries have become necessary to us, until now, when a squeeze has come, there is a general wall over the inadequacy of reduced incomes to meet our fixed expenses. We learn no more of the scarcity of house servants. For the first time in years, the supply exceeds the demand. Horses of good character and respectable antecedents are eagerly offered at such prices that impoverished owners are wondering if there is any real objection to turning horse-flesh into beef. Families that find themselves too poor to stay at home are planning to go abroad, and doubtless we shall presently see American families, now abroad, returning home to avail themselves of the low rents in the United States. It is not a state of matters to glory in, but its immediate effect will be to simplify our habits, and that will be good for us in the end, even though the process is uncomfortable.

WHEN a man is conspicuous as a reformer, it usually develops that he is \$20 a night as a lecturer that he is after-

AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Why Young People Drift from the Country to the City—How to Get Rid of Cockroaches—Bronze Turkeys—Things to Remember.

Making Farm Life Attractive.

The great development of the country that began almost immediately after the war of the rebellion drew a large number of farmers' sons to the cities. Many of them were attracted by the advantages offered in business and others had been unfitted for the quiet life of the country by their experience while in the army. This current still sets steadily cityward, and its results were realized in the last census, when one-third of the population of the country was found in cities of 2,000 people and over. It has been increased by the abandonment of nearly all the old-time amusements that were once in use in the country. The singing school, the apple-paring bee, the husking bee, and the other forms of innocent amusement that were in vogue twenty-five years ago have nearly all gone into disuse.

When the barrenness, the isolation and the hard work of farm life are taken into account, and the attractions which city life offers to the young, the past drift away from the country is easily explained. But it is likely that this force is being spent, and that another census will see a smaller percentage of the population of the country than now living in the cities. The overcrowding, the lack of work and the hardship that must be endured by the poor in cities are preaching their sermons and turning the attention of many to the country. The progress of science and invention are also certain to take much of the isolation from life in the country. The crusade for good roads, which promises in the near future to substitute well-built highways for the muddy, rutty country roads of today is one means. The constant cheapening of electricity, which must soon girdle the country highways with roads, is another means; and the bicycle, which every farmer's boy and girl ought to know how to ride, is a third means of pacing the farm in cheap, quick, and easy communication with other farms, and with the town and city also.

Every means that will tend to spread the people over the country and restore farm life to its former dignity and contentedness ought to be encouraged. The American people would be happier and more healthful, their lives would be purer and more useful, if the old equilibrium between the city and the country were brought back again. The increasing disposition of well-to-do people to go to the country early and stay late will act as an incentive to draw other people there by adding to the social advantages. The greater security and comfort of life on the farm over city life no one can dispute, and if to these features the means for more healthful amusement and more frequent mingling with men can be added, the health, wealth, and happiness of the Nation will be increased many fold.—Philadelphia Press.

Bronze Turkeys.

The bronze turkeys usually are the best for raising, as they can be made to produce very tender, sweet meat, while their carcasses when properly fattened are very heavy. In fact, they surpass all other breeds, both in weight and hardiness. The young turkeys before this time should be held the spots over a tankard of boiling water and rub with juice of sorrel and salt, and when the cloth is thoroughly wet dip quickly in lye and wash at once. ARTICLES of food that are damp or juicy should never be left in paper. Paper is merely a compound of rags, glue, lime and similar substances, with acids and chemicals intermixed, and when damp is unfit to touch things that are to be eaten. A FREE application of soft soap to a fresh burn almost instantly removes the fire from the flesh. If the injury is very severe, as soon as the pain ceases apply linseed oil, and then dust over with the flour. When this covering dries hard, repeat the oil and flour dressing till a good coating is obtained. When the latter dries, allow it to stand until it cracks and falls off, as it will do in a day or two, and a new skin will be found to have been formed where the skin was burned.

Modern Hip Van Winkles.

Two Neapolitan brigands, Virencia Cleco and Giuseppe Rosa, have been recently set at liberty after forty years' imprisonment. It is impossible to describe their astonishment at the sight of the railways, telegraphs, tramways, and other modern inventions, which had not been drempt of in their younger days. Still, they are not happy. They complain that when walking in the streets of Naples they do not meet a single face they know, not even that of a former victim. Signor Crispi represents a paternal government; and the forlorn condition of the poor fellows having awakened his sympathy, he has furnished them with the means to return to their native mountains.

Bank Note Paper.

The Bank of England note is not of the same thickness all through. The paper is thicker in the left-hand corner, to enable it to take a better and sharper impression of the vignette there, and is also considerably thicker in the dark shadows of the center letters and under the figures at the ends. Counterfeit notes are invariably of one thickness.—Chicago Tribune.

Lastly (and quite necessary for complete success) powdered borax must be shaken in considerable quantity on the floor all along the baseboard of the walls so as to make a strip about three or four inches in width. This must not be swept up by a cook who is anxious to have a neat kitchen, but left for several days and then renewed if found desirable. I do not know the philosophy of the use of borax, but it is efficacious in banishing the intruders.

Women as Milkers.

A correspondent in Country Gentleman says: "We have several times had an arrangement with wives of our tenants for milking morning and evening, and have paid ten cents for each service—that is twenty cents per day. This is based upon an hour's service at each milking, at the rate of one dollar for a day's work. In an hour's time a good milker ought to milk ten cows. There are several reasons why women are preferable for milkers when they can be had, or when a portion of the force can be women. Their natural dexterity is greater than that of men, and they will milk with more rapidity and with greater ease to the cows, which means that they will get more milk, and the udders of the cows will be kept in better condition. The presence of women at milking time checks rude conversation and boisterous conduct, and the quieter the stable can be kept the better, especially if you have any nervous cows. The men are not apt to neglect the thorough cleaning of the stalls or brushing of the cows in the occasional absence of the proprietor if they know that women are to aid in the milking. The average man born, or long resident in this country, looks upon every woman as a lady, and entertains for her a respectful courtesy which keeps him upon his good behavior in her presence. Anyone will be making a good move in introducing as many women as he can among his milkers."

Native for Tree Wounds.

Tree trimming is in order, and many limbs will be cut off unavoidably. No stump should be left, but the cut should be made close to the trunk and the wound should be painted thoroughly as soon as it has ceased to weep for a few weeks. Left to decay in the weather, it will soon admit water to the heart of the tree, when rapid and certain destruction follows. No preparation is as cheap to buy and apply, and none more efficient than good white or red lead and linseed oil. A very little mineral paint may be added if desired to make the paint somewhat harder. Use no turpentine. Some make the mistake of painting the wound when it is made. Paint and oil cannot adhere to a wet surface, but will peel off, or will let sap and water blister beneath it. Very soon the application is valueless. I have never detected any insects from such use of paint.—Exchange.

Things to Remember.

TEA-TRAYS and all japanned goods should be cleaned with a sponge wet with warm water and a little soap.

LAY a drain from the cellar which will keep it dry. It will make it a more suitable place for storing provisions and more healthful to live above.

HALF the battle in washing dishes is keeping the dish-cloths and towels clean. Washing out once a week in ammonia water should never be neglected.

IT'S about time for the little red ant, but if you will tie lumps of camphor in paper and leave them about his favorite haunts, you will ward off the visitor.

TO TAKE iron mold out of linen hold the spots over a tankard of boiling water and rub with juice of sorrel and salt, and when the cloth is thoroughly wet dip quickly in lye and wash at once.

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Sable remains the choicest fur next to ermine and is made up into handsome deep capes, with or without butterfly collars. There is a great difference in the price of sable, and almost a

FASHIONS IN FURS.

MUFFS OF IMMENSE SIZE ARE TO BE WORN.

Those Dreadful Whole "Beasties" Which Were So Popular as Tippets Last Winter Are to Again Bedeck the Necks of Women This Season.

Gossip from Gay Gotham. New York correspondence:

FURRIERS must be heartless men, for again this winter they plan to bedeck the throats of fair and gentle women with those dreadful whole "beasties" which were so popular as tippets last winter. They are no longer little but a so big now that one wonders how the women dare put them on. They come at all prices, too, from a cheap marten, which, alas! is really puss-cat, to Hudson sable. These last are deep-furred and soft and comprise the whole animal, two little jaws dangling in front with the head and two at the back with the little tail, any one of them enough to make a woman cry for pity. But what has a woman to do with pity where furs are concerned? An odd feature of fashionable fur usage is that the amount of fur displayed in any one costume is wholly at the discretion of the wearer. Thus, a woman may be enveloped in a wrap that comes almost to the ground, and cover her head with a hat liberally trimmed with the same pelt, or she may, as in the costume of the initial picture, let the only bit of fur in her make-up appear in a narrow band about



MUFFS ABOUT THIS SIZE

the brim of her felt hat. In general, the latter method is, perhaps, more in accordance with current acceptances, but both are permissible. The garment which the fur-trimmed hat accompanies is a coat of red chevot. It consists of a coat proper, which buttons invisibly in front, to which is attached a circular cape which leaves a yoke-like portion of the coat exposed. This yoke is covered with black all-over embroidery, which also appears on the collar. The latter is stiffened with ermine and has a rolling edge. The lace cape is one hundred and thirty-five inches wide and eighteen inches deep, and the seam that joins the lace and cloth cape to the coat is covered with a full ribbon ruching. Besides the edging of fur the hat, which is in a shade of Paris green, has its low crown encircled by a velvet band, and two velvet points and a pale green bird's head are placed in front. Behind these come two black and green changeable Mercury wings with a fan-like aligrette.

A wearer whose choice is for more display of fur than can be put upon a hat is she of the second illustration. Her huge, handsome boa, and the muff are of Russian seal, soft, fleecy and beautiful. Muffs are promised which shall so closely follow 1830 styles as to be simply huge, but it is not likely that the early winter will see many such, although the we cold things which paraded as muffs in the recent past will surely be abandoned.

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A COAT FUR-EDGED

corresponding difference in length of fur and softness of texture and color. Sablekin always holds its place. This season it is darker and silkier than ever, and that means that it has been extraordinarily subjected to dyeing and scraping. That in turn means that your sealskin will hardly look well a season through. Therefore, if you really want a real, you'd better have it made into a cape, because a cape gets less wear than does a coat, having no

sleeves to rub, no outside pockets to wear and also escaping a good deal of wear in sitting down that a coat gets. If, however, your only idea is to spend money and help your husband to weather the present "financial crisis" by wearing the best and so inspiring his creditors all but the ones who sold you the coat with confidence, then have a sealskin frock-coat. Let the skirts be very full, the sleeves very large at the shoulders, and the reverse either faced with astrakhan or ermine.

Anyone would know that the little girl of the next picture was new to her muff, for she is not content with holding it in its proper place, but must lift



ANOTHER FURRED WRAP

it to her eyes to admire its pretty shade of tan, rub it against her chin to test its softness and blow into it to satisfy herself of its thickness. Many times must the muff go through these approving processes, and many condensing smiles must it receive before it begins to age in its young wearer's appreciation. The fur here is beaver, and a narrow edging of it is seen about the hem, fronts, cuffs and cape of the coat. Some would add a strip of it to the hat, but all such matters are left to personal choice. The coat itself is of cloth, and lined with quilted pink satin, the fronts and back being pleated to a yoke. The back has a wide box pleat held in place at the waist by a fancy braided strap, and the slashed collar is lined with plain silk.

Ermine is being used chiefly in combination with other furs, notably with seal. Very elegant frock coats of dark seal have vests let in of ermine, and the shoulder puff and collar of the same. An ermine muff, too, should be carried. Ermine also comes in sets consisting of the big old-time muff of our grandparents, a tippet also like the ones the old-time James wore, and cuffs. Such a set is worn with a velvet or seal cloak. Ermine is also used to line opera cloaks, the outside being in delicate shades of soft silk or velvet. A regal cape of seal reaching generously below the hips is lined with ermine and can be worn either side out, the outside side outside for the street and the reverse for the theater.

In the fourth sketch there is another fur-trimmed wrap, worn with a boa and muff to match. In this model, a suitable one for young matrons, the material is black cloth made up without lining. The circular double collar consists of cloth on the lower, and gros grain on the upper side, the upper



AT ONCE A PROTECTION AND AN ORNAMENT

collar coming down the fronts of the wrap and being trimmed with jet. This collar and the fitted fronts are garnished with the fur.

Astrakhan is to be much worn and the Persian comes very high. The hair is longer than ever and loosely curled. One wonders if the cultivators of furs have been doing and rubbing their astrakhan animals all summer with hair tonic stuffs. Astrakhan is made up in frock coats and capes and is to be much used for trimming cloth gowns. To meet the craze for "black and white" it is made up with ermine, but somehow it does not look just right, for the astrakhan seems too common for the ermine. Monkey is still used and is cheaper than it was last year, but it is most awfully ugly now as always, and after all not much nicer than its owl frequent imitator, dyed goat fur. Marten, not unlike sable of the commoner quality, is a good stand-by fur and inexpensive. A fur lately introduced is called Janet, and is for lining long cloaks. It is soft, almost too soft to stand well the wear that comes on a lining, of a delicate brown color and not expensive.

It would be hard to say whether the furred front of the plush jacket in the final picture is more for ornament or for protection. It has such a fragmentary appearance that at first glance it would seem worthless as a security against the cold, but it still is a protection for the chest, while being a decided addition to the jacket's appearance. That garment is made of black plush, is thinly waxed and lined with black satin mervellieu. The fur is Persian lamb. Copyright, 1898.

The Farm.

The farm is one continuous experiment station. A large measure of the success reached by any farmer is due to the knowledge gained from this experimentation.