

the beauty of everything about me brought a peculiar quietude and my thoughts filled with wonder and admiration. Nesting birds flitted among the boughs and everywhere there was constant manifestation of the assurance of life happy in the course of preparation necessary to insure to each its progeny. In none of these could I perceive a single action indicative of that strife to which unfortunately humanity so much devotes itself; but everywhere a good natured rivalry whose only purpose seemed a conscientious fulfillment of life. The branch from which hung a thousand leaves was not shattered by dissection, nor was the trunk of the tree from out which grew a hundred heavy boughs torn by struggle for supremacy. The topmost leaf was no more perfect than the nethermost, nor the branch that reached highest into the sunshine one whit less nourished than the nearest one to the roots, whose leaves were barely lifted above the ground.

Then, too, the roots of this great tree extended far down into the darkness of the earth to find sustenance for the luxuriant part swaying in the sunlight, and the thousands of leaves drank their fill of the sun's warm rays thereby to provide sufficient force to drive those roots ever downward.

Looking upon this beautiful picture, I could not repress the question, how can we determine the possibilities of nature, and who will disclose the secrets of life concealed in every fragment of this monarch of vegetation; what is the logic surrounding the blending of the extremes where death is snatched from the lethargy of decay and revealed in a life of activity and exuberance, and vigorous life withered in a moment and lost in the extravagance of decay.

So it is in the relation of dentistry to the welfare of man. We may not perhaps be able to explain satisfactorily the reason why the food must be crushed between the teeth, thoroughly masticated, and thereafter sent to the stomach to be digested and given over to the blood for the nutrition of the body, but we do know this is a fact which no human being can successfully escape. Just why the reptile can swallow the live toad and absorb it for the regeneration of its body, while the human being must go through an entirely dissimilar process will probably never be clear to you and me, but that does not vary the truth of the situation any more than your and my belief that there is no hell does away with that hell if in fact there is such a place.

Let us profit by the lesson flaunted before our eyes by the tree, and all commune, live and grow at God's storehouse of wisdom whether it leads us to dentistry and oral hygiene or to the garden spots of nature, the farm. Our obligation is just the same, and society demands as much morally, physically and intellectually of the one as the other. Let each say for himself, if he can, what is the full comprehension of life, and declare that on the morrow the mouth of the sage will give utterance to its complete understanding. It would be as well to assert that one could by studious watchfulness discover why the acorn deposited in the ground already touched by the warmth of a summer sun, bursts into life, and down through the decades of time, marked by the storm cloud and the ravaging blasts of winter, stands forth as a towering oak tree. But even this splendid exhibition of nature does not conquer life, nor give to us the knowledge whereby we can physically overcome death and break down the everlasting sinews of destiny, for it, too, casts its foliage upon the funeral pyre of Autumn leaving its arms shivering and bare to the seige of the snow-laden winds of the North. The blood of life no longer swells its veins, and it stands stricken, a silent portrayal of the burial ground.

But while our thoughts are still tinged with sadness there comes to us the comforting reflection that, altho we cannot avoid the grim reaper, Death, or break his hands, once they

have been fastened upon us, we have it within our reach to do very much, by the scrupulous observance of the laws of hygiene, to prolong the average life and, thru the development of latent power and the accomplishment of dormant possibilities, add greatly to the sum of human happiness as well as our own personal enjoyment. By the preservation of health and the conservation of our energies, we shall find in life satisfaction and pleasure worth incomparably more than the cost necessary in effort and money to secure.

Meat Production

United States Department of Agriculture Predicts Slow Increase in Beef Production

That hereafter there should be a slow increase in the output of beef and mutton in the range states of the West, but that this increase is likely to be accompanied by an increase in the cost of production, are the chief conclusions of a report on "Live Stock Production, in the Eleven Far Western Range States" which the Department of Agriculture has just published. This report is one of the five sections of the exhaustive report on the meat situation in the United States, in the preparation of which the Department specialists have been engaged for some time. It discusses the reasons for the long decline in meat production in the West and explains why there is reason to believe that this is now a thing of the past. In addition it includes detailed studies of the present cost of producing steers and lambs.

Between 1910 and 1914, the year in which the investigations on which the report is based were made, the numbers of live stock in the eleven states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, declined about 13 per cent. For this decline the report holds the settlement of public lands and the consequent reduction of the range primarily responsible. A number of other causes have contributed to the downward movement, but it is pointed out these have been more than offset by high prices and therefore more profitable range animals. The prediction that this decrease hereafter will give way to an increase is based upon the belief that the amount of live stock on farms and homesteads will be greater in the future, that the stock ranges in the national forests will continue to improve, that the carrying capacity of the stock ranges on the public domain may be increased by legal regulation, and finally that high prices of range animals and better methods will result in a more efficient utilization of the available forage, or, in other words, a greater production per unit of forage.

In 1914 it was estimated that no more than 30 per cent of the new settlers had more live stock than was necessary to supply them with work and milch animals. The situation in this respect, however, was changing even then, and the movement for the production of more live stock may be expected to continue because both market and agricultural conditions make this indispensable to really successful farming. The change will be gradual, it is said, and only a few head of stock will be added to a farm but ultimately and in the aggregate the increase will be greater than that which is likely to be accomplished in any other way. The problem for the states and national government, it is said, is to aid in the change by working out a system which will make such agriculture profitable.

In addition to this increase in the numbers of farm stock, there is little doubt that the carrying capacity of the existing ranges can be greatly enlarged. This has been demonstrated in the national forests where improved methods and regulation have increased the capacity of many ranges from 15 to 30 per cent. This process should continue for at least ten

years more and should result in building up the carrying capacity of the national forests as a whole by perhaps 15 per cent.

If similar control could be exercised over the public domain outside of the forests, it is estimated that the capacity of these ranges could be increased about 30 per cent. About half of this would result from the improvement in the range itself after overstocking and premature grazing were prevented and natural re-seeding facilitated. The remainder would follow water development, the construction of fences and the introduction of methods of handling stock which are out of the question as long as the improvement of conditions on the range merely provides an incentive for new men to crowd in and undo by overstocking whatever good has been accomplished. The carrying capacity of these ranges has greatly diminished in the past and under the present system there is no reason for supposing that it will increase in the future.

Other factors, though of less importance, that should tend to increase the future production of live stock are greater economy in the use of forage both on the range and on the farm the use of more and higher grade bulls and better management of the breeding animals through the year. The last two, it is said, offer the possibility of increasing the calf crop five or ten per cent and the average weight of a two-year-old steer perhaps thirty pounds.

Where winter feeding is practiced it is believed that a yearling steer will cost approximately \$30 and a "long" two-year-old \$45. In the range sections of the Southwest, on the other hand, the costs may be estimated at from \$15 to \$19 for a yearling and from \$20 to \$25 for a two-year-old. With sheep there is a similar variation. In California the cost of producing a lamb is placed at \$1.55, in the Southwest at \$1.71 and in the Northwest at \$1.82. In considering these figures it must be remembered that they all may be materially altered by increasing or diminishing the percentages of births in the herds and flocks. Better methods, it is pointed out, will almost certainly increase the calf and lamb crops and in this way reduce the cost of production per head.

In estimating these costs the investigators charged against the stock

the market value, in the vicinity, of all the feed consumed. In this way the necessity of considering the money invested in land and equipment was eliminated but, on the other hand, allowing the stock owner a profit on the feed increases somewhat the estimated cost of producing animals. As the owner might not get his profit on the feed if he did not raise stock to utilize it, the actual profits in stock raising are probably somewhat greater than the difference between the market price of the animals and the report's estimates of the cost of production.

To Cleanse Fur of a Cat.

Take a large cupful of granulated corn meal, add pinch of fine grape seed. Place cat on apron or other cloth, then rub meal gently and thoroughly through the fur, gathering the meal up and repeating three or four times. This will heal and leave skin perfectly clean and the fur soft and luxuriant. Will also remove fleas.

Deadly Gila Monster.

The gila monster is a clumsy, heavy lizard, though a full-grown specimen is a wonderfully striking object to behold. It is justly famous as one of Mexico's most interesting reptiles, for it abounds all over that country from the border to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is popularly called gila monster because it was once quite common along the Gila river in Arizona.

Daily Thought.

Idealism means peace.—Lord Robert Cecil.

Nine Miles Southwest of Jerusalem.

The story is told of a teacher who was accustomed to ask the same question of the same scholar each Sunday. Tom always had the question, "Where is the lesson located?" He was always prepared on the question, and that being answered felt no further interest in the lesson. Tom was away one Sunday. On the Sunday following the teacher asked, "Where were you last Sunday, Tom?" and he answered mechanically: "Nine miles southwest of Jerusalem."—Christian Herald.

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