

THE OLD-TIME PARLOR.

There used to be in almost every rural home in the country a sacred room—the "parlor." Every reader is probably familiar with it, for it still exists, though not so universally as it did years ago, when no home in the land, in village, hamlet, or on farm, was considered complete or well-equipped without this dismal apartment—carefully shuttered in against air and sunlight; a jar of waxwork on the center table; a collection of curious odds and ends on the what-not in the corner; mottoes and chronos on the wall; a vivid Ingrain or Brussels carpet on the floor. The sound of festivity seldom penetrated the gloom of this parlor, says the Philadelphia Press. At rare intervals distinguished visitors were received in it—witnesses of wedding or funeral. It was never a pleasant room; it smelled damp and dusty; the children stood in awe of it; and yet it was their mother's pride. Happily the day of the pent-up, unsavory parlor is fast passing away. The children, going out into the bigger world with observant eyes, have returned to the homestead and insisted upon flinging open the doors and windows and admitting a burst of sunlight and a rush of pure air. They have made a living-room of a tomb. In their childhood the kitchen was the most comfortable place in the house; it was scrubbed every day, ventilated always, made light and airy and clean and hospitable while the ghostly hidden precincts of the parlor were exposed to sanitary search not oftener than twice a year—during the inevitable spring and fall housecleaning.

It is only recently that they have discovered a way of canning decayed eggs, and there are bakers in the large cities who are so devoid of honesty that they would as soon use rotten eggs as fresh ones. Thus a market is created, and but for the fact that the state under its pure food laws can step in and condemn this product as unfit for consumption, the problem created by cold storage would have been rendered more complex as the year goes by, says the Rochester Herald. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that meat which has been cold-stored to the point of decay is treated in the same manner. No one ever hears of it being thrown away.

And now the London police have discovered that the prisoner convicted by finger prints, and who, it was reported, had established his innocence by indisputable evidence that, being in the army at the time, he could not have been guilty, was, after all, a fakir. He stole the army records of another man to bolster up his defense and came very nearly getting away with it. The police are doubly pleased at the discovery, since it prevents a guilty man from escaping and re-establishes the finger-print theory as infallible at least so far as experience has gone. But for a time the fakir had both the London police and the finger-print theory "groggy."

Secretary Dickinson has just issued a report on the militia of this country that shows how little the minds of Americans are turned away from peace and toward war. He announces that in 1910 the strength of the organized militia forces of the nation is only 119,660 men, an increase of but 2,113 in seven years, says the Boston Globe. He does not add that there are almost to a thousand as many clergymen, printers, manufacturers, grocers, butchers, stenographers or masons in the nation as there are citizen soldiers. But the fact is true.

A Butte man who is being sued, for breach of promise is charged by the plaintiff with having called her "My Dear Tobacco." No wonder she wants \$10,000, since he was not explicit enough to say whether she was of fine cut, or a mere plug.

Returns from the New York public library indicate that fiction fell off in demand as compared with books of a historical or scientific nature. This should spur the Indiana school of novelists to renewed efforts or some thing.

A San Francisco man says he will rot before he pays alimony to his divorced wife, but it is believed he will change his mind before decomposition gets a firm hold on him.

It may be theoretically possible to transport 10,000 men across the Alps in aeroplanes, but with the example of Moissan and Hoxley in their minds the chances are that 9,000 of them will refuse to be transported in that way.

China will sacrifice 200,000,000 geese for the artificial hair market this year, and all will be sent to America. The joke on the Chinese is that they don't know that puffs have gone out of fashion now.

MOISTURE FOR CROPS

Great Want of Farmer Is Water During Dry Spells.

Many Localities in West Where Supply of Water Can be Obtained for Irrigation, Defying Drouths and Assuring Big Crops.

Mr. H. H. Lyon says: "I had rather see the government assist in solving some of our problems of water supply, than to see so much money going into irrigation and other schemes at enormous distances from our markets." Owing to the fact that copious rains have frequently fallen soon after great battles, in which there had been heavy artillery firing, it was generally believed that the firing of heavy guns caused the moisture with which the air was laden to be condensed into drops, and fall to the earth, producing rain in a dry time. In order to test this belief, congress appropriated several thousand dollars, which was expended during a great drouth in Texas by army officers, writes J. H. Ingram in the Country Gentleman. The heaviest guns were fired continuously for a week and brought no rain.

The great want of farmers is moisture in their fields when rains do not come at the proper intervals, and their crops suffer or are utterly destroyed. The person who could discover an effectual remedy for the severe drouths to which most of our country is subject would be a greater benefactor than the inventor of the steam engine or electric telegraph. A Wisconsin writer says: "A sufficient amount of moisture stored up in the earth would supply this want (rain in a dry time) even if no rains fell from the time of planting crops until harvest time."

Had he said a sufficient amount of water stored up on top of the earth, I could have agreed with him. In Colorado, Utah and California, where they can obtain a supply of water on top of the ground for irrigation, they can defy the drouths and raise good crops every year. Water where it can be turned on the fields when needed is a sure thing. Capillary attraction, or the wonderful rise of the ground water to the surface, in spite of the attraction of gravitation, is of immense value to agriculture when assisted by the cultivator; but there is a limit beyond which it will not work, and a reservoir of water a few feet under his fields would be of no use to the farmer unless brought to the surface by a pump.

There are places where there are abundant supplies of water stored in the earth; but the crops suffer as badly there from drouth as in any region of our country. In Kalamazoo, Mich., there is a large extent of country underneath which there is an inexhaustible supply of water which, when tapped by artesian wells, rises nearly to the surface. The city of Kalamazoo, containing 18,000 inhabitants, is fully supplied by artesian wells. The water is underneath the valley like a shallow lake, and is forced up nearly to the surface, when tapped, by the pressure of the rain water descending from the surrounding hills. The bountiful reservoir is too deep for capillary attraction to draw it up, and when the writer was there during an August drouth there was no green to be seen in the meadows, and the grass in the city park had to be watered to keep it alive.

There is water enough under the great Desert of Sahara. Wherever artesian wells have been bored a plentiful supply has been found, and if capillary attraction could bring it up, there would be no desert there. Level land plowed nine inches deep will retain all the rain water it is capable of absorbing, and as much as if plowed deeper. Of course clayey soils will retain more than sandy. When the rain water has sunk much below the depth we usually plow, it has escaped beyond the power of capillary attraction to bring it back to the surface. I have been in coal mines in Pennsylvania, from which the steam pump was working night and day hoisting out a stream of water nearly enough to turn a mill, and yet the farmers' fields near by were suffering for lack of it.

Capillary attraction often receives credit for moisture which it does not supply, but which is supplied by condensation of the moisture in the atmosphere—like the condensation of the drops on the outside of the ice-pitcher. You break the crust that has formed on the surface of your corn field, and expose the cooler earth below, the air coming in contact with that cooler earth imparts moisture to it. The condensation is not so apparent as in the case of the ice-water pitcher, because the soil absorbs it, which the pitcher does not. The government has tried to get rain by firing cannon and failed. It is extremely doubtful whether it could get any water-supply for Mr. Lyon except by irrigation.

Alfalfa in Orchard.
Alfalfa is being grown between the rows of orchard trees by some fruit growers, for its beneficial fertilizing effects, and later plowed under as a green manure crop.

Average Yearly Returns.
A United States government official estimated to a good Colorado farmer the average yearly returns for a good crop return "under the ditch" should be \$50 per acre.

CONQUEST OF GREAT DESERT

Time, Patience and Perseverance Required to Establish Homes in Many of New Districts.

In every attempt to convert desert land into fruitful fields there is a transition period which tries men's souls to the utmost. The warning cry is often given not to allow families to attempt to establish homes in the desert lest they perish. It is true a new irrigated district may not be a desert, but it is closely akin to it and it requires time, patience and self-denial to establish homes in such places. There is so much to be done with so little help and money that the bravest hearts often quail before the task is completed. It was comparatively easy for our forefathers to establish homes in the heavily wooded states of the Atlantic seaboard, and still easier for those who first settled on the prairie land of the Mississippi valley, writes S. Fortier in the Field and Farm. These men had to encounter dangers and hardships, but the winning of their livelihood from the soil was easier than the task which confronts for the first year or two the settler on a desert farm.

The most profitable crops on an irrigated farm require time to mature. The land for vineyards for example must be first thoroughly prepared before the plants are set in the ground, then from two to three years must elapse before any returns can be expected. Meanwhile, the expenses of caring for the vineyard have to be met. The same is true of all deciduous orchards with the difference that a longer period intervenes between the time of planting and profitable returns. The staple crop of the west is alfalfa, but he who expects a heavy yield the first season after planting it is too often doomed to disappointment.

The new settler with limited means has to confine his efforts during the first season to the seeding of small patches of grain and the planting of vegetables. By degrees he can work into the more profitable crops, such as alfalfa, orchards and sugar beets, but at first he must be content with much smaller returns. This is the transition period which marks the passing of the desert conditions and the introduction of profitable crops under irrigation. If there is ever a time when a new settler needs help it is during this period. The outlay in both labor and money for buildings, farm equipment, irrigation ditches and the proper preparation of the land is unusually high while the returns from the soil are correspondingly small.

BIG MISTAKE IN IRRIGATION

Common Error in Watering Potatoes Is to Turn a Large Head in Each Furrow.

The most common mistake made in the irrigation of potatoes is to turn a large head in each furrow, permit it to flow rapidly to the bottom of the rows and then shut it off. This way of applying the water wets only the surface layer and if it is now followed up immediately by cultivation two days of sunshine will rob the soil of most of the water which has been applied and seal over the surface with a hard crust. In this condition the crops soon begin to suffer and the unskilled farmer fancies that the only remedy lies in applying more water. A better plan is to turn only a small amount of water into a deep furrow and permit it to run without stopping for hours or even for a day or night. In this way the top layer is not saturated, the soil around the roots and beneath them receives a larger supply and the surface may be cultivated shortly after each irrigation so as to check evaporation and retain the moisture in the soil for the benefit of the crop.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

No stock should be exposed to cold rains and snows.

Whole milk is a perfect ration for young calves.

Young stock will thrive on blue grass, needing no grain.

It is difficult to say what is both the best and cheapest feed for brood sows.

The pregnant ewes must have, as far as possible, natural conditions.

Farmers make a mistake in keeping their hogs too long.

It ordinarily costs about ten dollars to keep a sow for a year on the farm.

Above all things, brood sows, young or old, should have plenty of exercise.

Calves, kept in a cold barn, or in a place constantly cold, usually look rough.

With careful management from 12 to 20 pigs should be raised each year from a prolific, mature sow.

If sheep are heavily coated with wool they may look fat and plump, when in reality they are very poor.

Some of the best experienced men permit ewes to run on pasture with plenty of good shelter when desirable.

If ringworms begin to show on the little calves, usually around the eyes, do not neglect attending to it at once.

One way to reduce the cost of raising hogs very effectively is to increase the number of prolific sows in the herd and reduce the number of non-prolific ones.

To facilitate feeding the calves, they should be secured in small stanchions, so that they do not tip over each other's mess, or get in the habit of sucking each other.

TALES OF GOTHAM AND OTHER CITIES

Firemen Often Fooled by Freak Calls



NEW YORK.—In the face of accident the unresourceful New Yorker flies to two sources of safety and relief of the police and the fire departments. He has no confidence in himself. The result of walking in the same groove with his many brothers day in and day out for so many years has left him with no incentive to do the work of rescue. The fire alarm box is so handy and the "cop" is so accessible, "what would be the use?" he asks himself. For this reason no firemen in any section of the country are called upon to do such a variety of things as those in the larger cities.

Perhaps one of the most humorous calls for the fire department in New York came when an epileptic, about to "throw a fit," had held a bottle of medicine to his mouth, which he explained to the court afterward, would have prevented the attack. Some self-appointed guardian, imagining the bottle contained poison, dashed it to the

pavement and called for the firemen. Great crowds gathered about the spot where the man lay and the firemen and policemen of the district added to the throng. The firemen were disgusted, the police were disgusted and eventually the epileptic was disgusted because he was arrested for causing a disturbance.

Last year one of the innovations in the rescue work of New York firemen which includes anything from taking cats from trees to rescuing people in 42-story buildings, was the rescue of an aviator whose machine had become entangled in a maze of wires in Brooklyn.

A little girl, eager to get a "look" into a fine garden, thrust her head between two pickets and once there she was unable to release herself. The firemen and police were called, but finally a doctor came forward with a little vasoline, applied it on the child's head and the rescue was effected.

Recently a fireman was injured by a fall from a tree while rescuing a cat that had escaped a canine's fury. There are scores of such happenings every day in great cities and among the heaviest bills fire departments must pay are those caused by responding to false alarms.

Bloodhound's Luxurious Surroundings



BANGOR, ME.—One of the finest packs of bloodhounds in this part of the country is kept at the Maine State prison in Thomaston for the moral effect on prisoners who contemplate escape. The pack is a mixture of an imported English strain and carefully bred southern stock. One of the pack, when but a young puppy, was presented to Marguerite Owen, a Belfast girl, and the two have been inseparable companions for the last three years. The dog's name is Hilda. She is of a most sensitive and sympathetic nature and feels a cross word much more than some dogs would. She romps with the children, her favorite diversion being hide-and-seek. She knows the children by name, and when she is "it," she always finds the one she is told to seek.

Hilda has a bedroom all to herself, fitted up with a little iron cot with real bedclothes like one of the family. The room is lighted with elec-

tricity, and each night her mistress goes upstairs and Hilda crawls into bed, lays her head on the pillow and waits to be covered up and tucked in. When this is done the light is turned off and she is left for the night, rarely stirring until called in the morning.

Mention of bloodhounds usually suggests "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the great, bloodthirsty beast that chase Eliza across the ice, but the big, ferocious appearing "man tracking Cuban bloodhounds" of the show bills are usually the lumbering, good natured Great Danes, mastiffs or a cross breed. It is easy to teach them to chase Eliza, when the unfortunate woman has some choice tidbits in the pockets of her apron with which to feed the dogs if they chase her with satisfactory realism.

The chief characteristic of the genuine bloodhound is the marvelous development of their scent-following instinct, especially when trained to follow human beings. Their ability to keep the trail is the result of intelligence and training and not on account of any animosity against the person being trailed, for, contrary to the general supposition, the real bloodhound rarely if ever attacks the person he has been following.

How Des Moines Club Women Get Money



DES MOINES, IA.—Imagine the wife of Gov. B. F. Carroll of Iowa begging funds on the streets, and imagine, too, other prominent society women of Des Moines blacking shoes, selling doughnuts, working at day labor, making candy and selling homemade cheese, and you will know how the women of Des Moines' Women's club are going about earning \$2,300 with which to buy pictures and paintings for the Women's club building in this city.

It all came about when at a meeting of the Women's club the low condition of the treasury was discussed. Something had to be done. Musicales luncheons, amateur theatricals—all had been tried time and time again.

"Why not earn money like working women earn their money? Why not take in washing?" suggested Mrs. J. G. Berryhill, wife of a millionaire wholesale lumber dealer, who boasts the fatherhood of the famous Des Moines plan of municipal government. The other women gasped. But Mrs. Berryhill was in dead earnest.

That is the way it all came about. Before the meeting adjourned the women were enthusiastic. The next day the women were at work. Mrs. Ernest Brown, president of the club, "earned" her first dollar selling eggs produced from a pen of five chickens, for which her husband, her first customer, paid \$100.

Mrs. Carroll, wife of the governor of Iowa, became so enthusiastic that she was mistaken for a beggar while soliciting funds on the street. Mrs. Berryhill sold newspapers. Mrs. L. M. Mann, whose husband has made his fortune in real estate, decided to do shampooing. Mrs. W. F. Mitchell, president of the club, has been selling home-made aprons. Mrs. George Aulmann began her fund by selling doughnuts. Mrs. Weltz preempted the kitchen and baked dozens of pies. Mrs. Frank McKay has been selling popcorn. In fact, every woman in the club is doing all kinds of work, even down to shining shoes.

City Finds Jobs for the Unemployed
James Eads How of St. Louis, national president of the Brotherhood Welfare Association, and general champion of the rights of the unemployed, paraded through the streets of Kansas City, Mo., several days ago with several hundred of his followers and went to the city hall, where they asked the mayor for work. They said that the city should provide employment for all men who wanted to work. The mayor of Kansas City, Mo., told the jobless marchers that he had no jobs to give to them and he did not see how the city could help them out. This set the Kansas City (Kan.) commissioners to thinking and they got busy.

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It is not only to compel the vagrants to go to work that the municipal employment bureau has been established, and the jobs it furnishes are not restricted to this class. Already the bureau has found positions for eight stenographers, two of them in the city employ. About a dozen carpenters have been given work through the bureau, and 20 positions for stone masons are open and ready to be filled by the commissioners when the weather permits.

The city employment bureau has been in existence only a short while, but in that time a hundred men and women have been given jobs and the names of 200 more who want work have been received and filed in the order of their presentation, to be sent to positions among employers who want workers are found. The bureau will furnish positions of any kind to men or women.

Stop

taking liquid physic or big or little pills, that which makes you worse instead of curing. Cathartics don't cure—they irritate and weaken the bowels. CASCARETS make the bowels strong, tone the muscles so they crawl and work—when they do this they are healthy, producing right results.

CASCARETS are a box for a week's treatment. All druggists. Biggest seller in the world. Millions of boxes a month.

Nebraska Directory RUBBER GOODS

By mail at cut prices. Send for free catalogue MYERS-DILLON DRUG CO., Omaha, Neb.

RUPTURE CURED in a few days without pain or a surgical operation. No pay until cured. Send for literature. Dr. Wray, 307 Bee Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

Ever hear of a pearl being found in a church fair oyster?

Drink Garfield Tea at night! It insures normal action of liver, kidneys and bowels.

Too often sermons have too much length and too little depth.—Judge.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE." That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One Day. 36c.

Happiness grows at our own fire-side and is not to be picked in strangers' gardens.—Douglas Jerrold.

Constipation causes many serious diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. One a laxative, three for cathartic.

Caution.
"I have a remarkable history," began the lady who looked like a possible client.
"To tell or sell?" inquired the lawyer cautiously.—Washington Herald.

And in the Meanwhile.
Lady—Can't you find work?
Tramp—Yessum; but every one wants a reference from my last employer.
Lady—And can't you get one?
Tramp—No, mum. Yer see, he's been dead twenty-eight years.—London Punch.

Time for Stillness.
Mrs. MacLachlan was kind to her American boarder, but she did not propose to allow her to overstep the limits of a boarder's privileges, and she made it very clear.

One Sunday the boarder, returning from a walk, looked the windows of her room, which she had left wide open, tightly closed.
"Oh, Mrs. MacLachlan, I don't like my room to get stuffy," she said, when she went downstairs again. "I like plenty of fresh air."
"Your room will na' get stuffy in one day," said her landlady firmly. "Twas never our custom, miss, to hae fresh air rooshin' about the house on the Sawbath."—Youth's Companion.

Granite of the South.
When one speaks of granite the mind naturally reverts to Vermont. It is difficult to associate granite with any section of North America outside New England, yet it must now be acknowledged to the credit of the South that Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia are producing large quantities of stone of good quality which insures the South a place in the market at any rate.
The annual output is now worth about \$3,500,000 and the industry is growing. It may be of comparative interest to know that New England's output is about \$9,000,000 worth of stone annually.

HEREDITY Can Be Overcome in Cases.
The influence of heredity cannot, of course, be successfully disputed, but it can be minimized or entirely overcome in some cases by correct food and drink. A Conn. lady says:
"For years while I was a coffee drinker I suffered from bilious attacks of great severity, from which I used to emerge as white as a ghost and very weak. Our family physician gave me various prescriptions for improving the digestion and stimulating the liver, which I tried faithfully but without perceptible result.
"He was acquainted with my family history for several generations back, and once when I visited him he said: 'If you have inherited one of those torpid livers you may always suffer more or less from its inaction. We can't dodge our inheritance, you know.'
"I was not so strong a believer in heredity as he was, however, and, beginning to think for myself, I concluded to stop drinking coffee, and see what effect that would have. I feared it would be a severe trial to give it up, but when I took Postum and had it well made, it completely filled my need for a hot beverage and I grew very fond of it.
"I have used Postum for three years, using no medicine. During all that time I have had absolutely none of the bilious attacks that I used to suffer from, and I have been entirely free from the pain and debilitating effects that used to result from them.
"The change is surely very great, and I am compelled to give Postum the exclusive credit for it." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.
Read "The Road to Wellville," in pgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.