

THE CHILDREN



MEGAPHONE HAS FOUR TUNES

Instrument Can Be Heard in Every Direction, Even in Back—Looks Like a Lobster.

Anyone who has ever sat on a grandstand during a football game or track and field sports knows how limited is the radius of sound that issues from a megaphone. The announcer must turn in three different directions successfully to make an announcement to one section. A Maine woman has apparently solved this problem in the megaphone she has designed. It looks like a big lobster more than anything else, but it is credited with doing the work. The usual trunk tube has two intermediate branches near the mid-



New Megaphone Idea.

die and consisting of short tubes directed at an angle of about 45 degrees. Two other longer tubes extend backward from just below the mouth-piece. These long branches rest on the shoulders of the announcer and are rotatably joined so the mouth may be adjusted to different angles. When a man shouts anything through this megaphone it can be heard on all sides, and even in back of him.

FORGET NAPOLEON'S PET DOG

Citizen of Chateauroux Narrowly Escapes Arrest When Pleading for Stuffed Animal.

M. Augustin Flion tells an amusing story in the Debats about a stuffed dog that once belonged to Napoleon. This dog when alive accompanied the emperor to St. Helena, and was brought back to France by Marshal Bertrand, who died at the chateau of Tont Vent, near Chateauroux.

The chateau, with all its possessions, including some relics of Napoleon, was left by its pious owner, Mme. Amedee, to the Archbishop of Bourges, and became the property of the government when the church refused to accept the provisions of the separation act.

The relics of Napoleon were moved to a museum at Bourges, but the people of Chateauroux were able to secure possession of these treasures and to house them in their own museum. The stuffed dog, however, was forgotten and remained behind at the chateau.

At this there was a great outcry at Chateauroux, for the people wanted the dog in their museum. Their grievances were laid before the government in prose and verse. However, nothing was done until a citizen of Chateauroux went to Paris and laid his claim to the dog before three cabinet ministers.

He did so at considerable peril to himself, for when he said that he had come to see the ministers apropos of a dog of Napoleon's that had been seized with the other possessions of the Archbishop of Bourges, he was nearly arrested as a lunatic.

Who would have thought, as M. Flion says, that Napoleon's dog, who lived happily under the Concordat, could have got so woefully entangled with the separation law of a hundred years later?

CAN YOU FIND THEM

A	E	A	I	N
L	R	D	W	A
S	H	E	M	I
R	A	T	S	L
T	G	D	E	Y

There are 12 names beginning with "E." Move up, down and slanting, but do not skip. You can use the same letter any number of times.

Soup for Swimming.

"Mamma," queried little four-year-old Nellie at the dinner table the other evening, "What makes people eat soup first and then fish? Is it so the fish can go in swimming?"



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

A sweet-faced dolly,
With bright, golden hair,
Was put in a couch
With a big Teddy bear.

"Dear me!" thought the doll
To her little self,
"He will eat me up—
The mean, horrid elf."

But as she couldn't talk,
She just sat and stared;
She might try to walk,
If she only dared.

"Beauty and the beast,"
A little boy said,
And dolly was so shocked
She looked as if dead.

"LOOK INDIAN" FOR OBJECT

Best Way to Find Lost Article is Successfully Worked by Youngster Who Found Stickpin.

When you drop a small object on the floor, "look Indian," and you're sure to find it. Here is the modus operandi:

A certain young lady dropped a stickpin in the hall the other day and had hard work to find it. She hunted high and low, and on her hands and knees, and with a candle specially procured for the purpose, but it was no use; the pin was very tiny and unperceivable, its value being that of association rather than size or brilliancy. The young lady, after a final shake of the rug, was just about to give it up, when one of the children chanced to come along. "Why don't you look 'Indian' for it?" he asked. Before the young lady realized what was meant, down dropped the youngster on the floor, his head and his whole body lying sidewise, and just as close to the dead level as possible. In this position his eyes moved rapidly over the floor. "I have it," he shouted presently, and sure enough, right in the middle of the rug, in so plain a place that it had escaped notice, was the missing stickpin. The youngster then explained that "looking Indian" meant putting the head to the ground in order to catch sight of the smallest object between oneself and the horizon. "They do it on the plains all the time," he said. "That's why they can always tell who's coming. But it works in houses just as well as on the plains. Why, we never lose anything in the nursery nowadays; we just 'look Indian' and find it right off."

TRICK WITH COINS IS NOVEL

With Glass Full of Water Several Pieces May Be Dropped in Without Overflow.

Take a glass and fill it to the brim with water, taking care that the surface of the water is raised a little above the edge of the glass, but not



Dropping Coins in Water.

running over. Place a number of nickels or dimes on the table near the glass and ask your spectators how many coins can be put in the water without making it overflow, says the Popular Mechanics. No doubt the reply will be that the water will run over before two coins are dropped in. But it is possible to put in ten or twelve of them. With a great deal of care the coins may be made to fall without disturbing the water, the surface of which will become more and more convex before the water overflows.

Fish From a Bottle of Ink.

A simple and pretty little trick that almost anybody might do, is the changing of a glass full of ink into an aquarium. The glass of ink is exhibited to the audience, then a handkerchief is placed over it and immediately removed, showing a glass of water with a fish in it. Of course the water and the fish are there at first. The ink is perfectly represented by a piece of black rubber cloth, laid against the inside of the glass. A bit of thread is fastened to the cloth and hangs over the side of the glass away from the audience, with a little cork at the end of it. When the magician places the handkerchief over the glass he takes hold of the cork and brings away cork, thread and all, hidden in the handkerchief, leaving the water and the fish disclosed.

Silent Watchers.

Gladye—What are the silent watchers of the night, Ethel? Ethel—I don't know, unless those they've forgotten to wind up.

PROPER HANDLING OF APPLE CROP AFTER IT HAS BEEN PICKED

Respiration of Fruit After Taken From Tree Bears Important Relation to Their Keeping Qualities—Keep About Twice as Long in Cold Storage as in Ordinary Cellar.

(By F. W. MORSE, New Hampshire.)
The respiration of animals is a well known action and the necessity for it in the living creature is fully appreciated.

The fact that plants and parts of plants must also breathe is not so commonly understood. Yet all living cells, whether a part of animal matter or vegetable matter, must have oxygen to keep them alive and they give up carbon dioxide and water as a result of the action of the oxygen on some of their contents. Parts of plants when cut off from the main stem do not die at once, and must continue to breathe. This is true, whether the severed part is a leafy branch, a fruit or a root; but some parts live much longer after removal than others, and the apple continues to breathe for many weeks after it has been picked from the tree.

The chief products of respiration are the same in plants as in animals, namely, carbon dioxide (commonly called carbonic acid) and water. These products can be easily shown by placing one or more apples in a glass jar and covering it tightly. In a few hours a dewy film will cover the inner surface of the jar, that in time will collect into drops which will trickle to the bottom. On opening the jar, a little clear lime-water may be poured into it without touching the fruit, and



Testing an Apple.

the lime-water will be seen to turn milky, just as it will if an animal's breath is forced through it.

The taking up of oxygen from the air can also be readily shown by the following interesting experiment.

In a large basin partially filled with water set a small support on which is placed an apple and a small open dish containing a solution of caustic soda or potash. The apple should not touch the water nor the caustic solution. Cover the support and its contents by a large bell glass or wide jar with its mouth wholly in the water.

AUTUMN SOWN RYE VALUABLE

Crop is Hardy and Produces an Immense Bulk of Material Before Other Grasses are Grown.

(By W. R. GILBERT.)

Rye is not grown on every farm, but those who have proved its value as a bulky, succulent green food that is available in the spring before the grass grows, treat it as an indispensable and valuable crop.

Those who do not grow it can have an idea of this. In the spring time when they are lamenting the absence of new grass, resolutions are often made to grow some the succeeding year, but when the time arrives to sow the crop the good intentions are forgotten and nothing is done.

Then when the time comes around again, as it always does, much regret is felt that provision was not made to meet it with a good supply of rye. I would remind all that rye should now be sown and assert that it is most dependable.

It is hardy, always grows, produces an immense bulk of material long before any kind of grass affords

Now as the apple breathes in the oxygen of the air, and breathes out carbonic acid, the latter will be absorbed by the caustic solution while water will rise in the jar to fill the space made vacant by the removal of the oxygen. Finally the water will fill about one-fifth of the air space originally present and remain stationary, because the oxygen is all used.

Respiration, whether in animals or in plants, causes a destruction of matter in the cells much like the destruction of wood in a stove, and the rate at which this destruction goes on can be measured by determining the amount of carbonic acid that is breathed out in a given length of time.

Fruit, after having been picked from the tree is in the condition of a starving animal. Its cells still keep up respiration with nothing in the way of food to make good the losses produced by the action. Since apples and other fruits have no body heat to maintain, the breathing process is not so active as in animals, and they may last months after being picked from the tree. Yet there is a steady, continuous loss in weight as the weeks go by, although the fruit is sound and firm.

Respiration is partly a chemical reaction, and in apples, like most chemical solutions in the laboratory, it grows more rapid as the fruit becomes warmer, and slowed down when the fruit is cooled.

It is frequently the case that warm days with temperatures of 70 degrees occur late in the fall, and sometimes continue for a considerable period. Fancy apples intended for long keeping in cold storage should be cooled as soon as possible and kept cold. The breathing process is at the expense of cell contents and must weaken the keeping qualities as it goes on. And this destructive action is from four to six times as fast out of cold storage as inside it.

Another fact in connection with the respiration is important. It is not stopped in cold storage, but simply slowed. Apples cannot be kept indefinitely, but kept about twice as long in cold storage as in a cool cellar.

Draft Horses.

A good horseman never trots a draft horse, even when he has no load. That is not what they are for. Some degree of speed is desirable, however, even in a drafter, and the fast walk is not only the proper thing, but the only speeding to which a heavy draft horse should be permitted.

a bite and the stock relish it greatly. This includes cows in milk, mares suckling foals, sheep with lambs, and store stock, too, if sufficient is grown to allow them some.

It should not be sown in bleak prominences where it will have to contend with cutting winds. The more sheltered spots or fields are better adapted for its development in the hinders weathers of early spring.

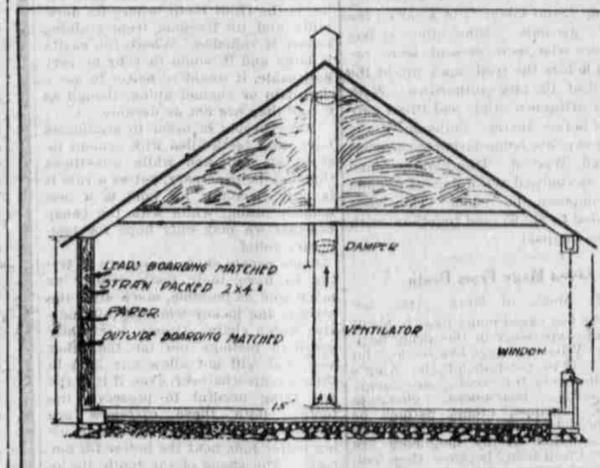
It may follow after corn or potatoes. It is only a temporary crop and will be consumed and cleared off in time to admit of roots being sown in the early summer. Making such quick and profuse growth it requires rich soil, but not to excess, as this would produce growth of a soft and too perishable nature.

Field after field of it need not be grown. A few acres, from two to half a dozen, according to demand, will yield a big supply. About three bushel of seed should be sown per acre. I much prefer to drill it, like grain, to sowing it broadcast.

Birds and pigeons are very fond of the seed and if sown broadcast much of it will be eaten, but when drilled, most of it is left alone.

There is a great demand for it by the cow keepers and those who have become acquainted with its disposal in this fashion never fail to have a large supply.

VENTILATION OF POULTRY HOUSE



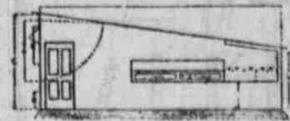
In the colder months when the inside temperature is higher than that outside, the renewal of air can be effected by a central shaft leading up to the roof and openings at the side by which cold air may enter.

POULTRY

GOOD HOUSE FOR CHICKENS

There is No Need of Elaborate Structure, but It Should Be Dry and Free From Draughts.

In describing what he deems the best house for chickens, Mr. Glenn T. Sponenbergh of Oswego county, New York, writes the Farm and Home as follows:



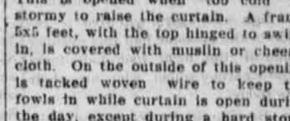
Front Elevation and Floor Plan.

If concrete is used in the construction of the foundation and floor it will make a rat and water-proof floor that is sanitary and easily cleaned. The rest of the house should be built of wood, as the forms for concrete would cost nearly as much as the siding itself. The frame is 2x4-inch material and the siding and roof boards of yellow pine surfaced both sides. If the sides are covered with roofing paper, it makes a tight and very warm house. The roof should be covered with some good roofing laid according to directions so as to make it as tight as possible. Shingles are not suitable for a building of this kind, as the roof is apt to be damp most of the time. The curtain front house is the driest and most easily regulated, in accordance with the weather. It is cheaper to build, is more easily cleaned and the floor space is more fully utilized than in the scratching-shed type. This house should be built tight so that the ventilation is from the south, therefore no drafts. With the scratching-shed house the roosting room is almost always sure to be damp. But by removing the partition this is eliminated and healthier hens are the result. If any one doubts that a flock of hens stir up much dust just let him stand on the front side of a curtain front house when they are fed. Open the curtain and when he sees the cloud of dust they raise I believe he will think fowls need more ventilation.

A shed roof is best, as it is easier to build, provides greater volume of sunlight and has no peak to become filled with cobwebs. The pens should be deep rather than long and shallow. This places the sunlight on the floor instead of on the back wall, therefore a dried floor and happier hens. The pens should be large enough to accommodate 50 hens and two or more cocks. One 20 feet deep and 12 feet wide will furnish the required floor space.

The accompanying plans of side and front elevations and floor arrangement illustrate what I think is the best house. This contains pens 12x20 feet, the front being 8 1/2 feet and the back 5 feet high. This is as high as is necessary to build and as low as is easy to work in. The front contains, to each pen, one double sash window with the upper sash hinged at the top. This is opened when too cold or stormy to raise the curtain. A frame 5x5 feet, with the top hinged to swing in, is covered with muslin or cheesecloth. On the outside of this opening is tacked woven wire to keep the fowls in while curtain is open during the day, except during a hard storm and in very cold weather.

The platform under the roost is 2 1/2 feet from the floor, and the nests are the same height, being entered from the platform. This leaves nearly all the floor space available to the hens, and every nook and corner is cleaned with ease. The roosts are 2x2-inch material rounded at the top. For a



Side Elevation Mr. Sponenbergh's House.

breeding house I would make the pens 12 feet deep and 8 feet wide, which would hold as many hens as are desired with one cock, but for a laying house the larger size is the better and more economical.

Condition of Laying Hens. A hen in the best laying condition has some surplus fat on her body. This means that her bodily wants have been supplied, and there is some to spare. A very fat hen seldom lays well; a poor hen cannot lay well. The first part of the egg which is made is the yolk, which contains 30 per cent of albumen and 64 per cent fat. New growth and egg production only come from the surplus food not needed to keep the body. Corn is an excellent grain, but is so relished by the fowls that are liable to overeat. Wheat, with its by-products, is the most useful grain to the poultry man.

Hard Runs Bad. Keeping fowls on hard runs will frequently cause swollen feet and legs. They must have some loose ground to scratch over.

Onlooker

Lucky Old Maid



My aunt Jane, she's a old maid—
She she is! She ain't afraid,
She declares, to spak the truth,
An' she's got a good-brown' tooth,
An' a switch that doesn't match—
See she couldn't make a catch,
So she lives with us, an' we
Make her glad as glad can be.
Ma an' Missus Amos Goff,
See aunt Jane is better off.

Missus Goff was here today—
When she come she said she'd stay
Just a minute; an' she stayed
Till the dinner things was laid.
Aunt Jane cooked the dinner, too;
There's more things that she can do!
Stakes th' bed, an' sweeps th' hall;
Cleaned th' house for us this fall.
Ma sez: "Jane, you'd have gray hairs
If you had my fambly cares!"

Aunt Jane's up at 5 each day,
Hustlin' in her busy way,
Gettin' breakfast, settin' bread—
Ma, she sleeps, sleep jus near dead,
She sez, with her usual life,
She sez when you are a wife
There's continual demand
On your time on every hand.
"Jane," she sez, "you can't be free
If you're rushed to death like me."

Aunt Jane mends my coats an' pants—
Boys that has no old maid stays
Dap't know how much use they are,
Yesterday when Missus Farr
Come to call on ma, why they
Said: "We rush by night an' day,
Jane, you lead a happy life
Just because you're not a wife."
Aunt Jane sez: "I got to go,
To my work—but—mebbe so."

On the Safe Side. "I will have my revenge," says the man who thinks he has been slighted. "I shall hunt that fellow up and knock the daylight out of him."

"Yes," counsels his friends, "and then you will be arrested and dragged into court and there will be a sensational story and you will be sent to prison and yourself and your family will be disgraced. Don't do it. It will be better to cool off and ignore the fellow."

"I'm not going about it the way you think," answers the offended man. "I'm going to get an auto and overtake him on a crossing and bump him forty ways from Sunday, and then explain that it was merely an accident."

Admiring his ingenuity, his friends have nothing to say.

She Knew. "Molly Doughgott has gone to New York to buy her fiancé; she expects to be married this fall," confides the lady who keeps pace with social affairs.

"Doubtless you mean to buy her trousseau," corrects the young woman who prides herself on her excellence in French. "Those foreign terms are so confusing, I know, that it is really—"

"No, I mean fiancé," replies the other. "The Doughgotts have just been realizing on their oil stock, and Mollie said she was going where her money would count the most."

Family Note. "And," asks the caller of little Freddy, "which of you children take after your father?"

"Not any of us," replied little Freddy.

"None of you?"

"No'm. But ma takes after him once in a while with the broom."

A Testimonial. "Dear Doctor: When I began using your hair medicine three months ago, you assured me that my hair would not trouble me much longer. I take pleasure in stating that you spoke the truth. Could you give me the address of a good wig maker?"

Hi-Fated. "Kismet," explained the ardent youth, "means 'Fate.'"

The tender young girl beside him looked timidly into his eyes and inquired softly:

"But if the kiss isn't met, what does it mean then?"

False Premises. "And what was the thread of his argument?" asks the citizen who has not attended the political meeting. "Thread of it?" says the disgruntled partisan. "There wasn't any thread to it. It was all yarn."

W. Nesbit