

ALLAYING A SCARE.

It takes precious little, sometimes, to start a serious "scare." The merest irresponsible rumor may result in a run on a bank, and a hint of fire may precipitate a disastrous panic. In fact, it might be difficult to disprove a statement, if made, that we mortals thoroughly enjoy being scared, and welcome the agency by which this end may be accomplished. As an instance of the popular love for a scare may be cited the readily-credited reports, the source of which no one seems to know, that all nickels dated 1910 were counterfeit, says the Manchester Union. The treasury department at Washington has received hundreds of inquiries from all sections of the country, on the strength of these reports, and the persistency with which the reports have spread has occasioned banks and business men much inconvenience. As a matter of fact, there are 30,000,000 nickels of 1910 in circulation, and, so far as the treasury department knows, all are genuine. Some of them were discolored in the minting, by fumes of sulphuric acid, which gives them an unusual appearance. This fact may have afforded apparent grounds for the "counterfeit" report, which is itself bogus. The nickels are good for five cents each, and there is no occasion for shying at them.

His incorrigible activity in various parts of the globe has given the war god much to answer for during the last few months; but with gods as with men it can perhaps be said that there is some good in the worst of the species. In behalf of Mars, for example, it may not be amiss to put forth the extenuating circumstance that his restlessness has at least added mightily to the geographical erudition of mortal men, says the Boston Herald. Take Agadir, for instance. Every one knows where it is now. But three months ago only a daring intellect would have vouched for its location on the Atlantic rather than upon the Mediterranean. Amoy, likewise, has been located for us, far to the south of Shanghai, where in our ignorance we least expected to find it. By the same token, we have been introduced to millions of our liberty-loving friends in the provinces of Hunan, Hupeh and Hu-knows where else.

Increasing frequency of deaths by poison compels the conclusion that it would be better for the community if deadly drugs were less easily obtained. Nearly every day's news carries its story of murder or suicide by poison. In many cases the crimes are made possible by the sale of drugs that under no circumstances should be sold indiscriminately. Evidence in these cases almost invariably shows that the criminals purchased the death potion with the same ease and lack of restriction that would attend the sale of a bar of soap, says the Chicago Journal. More rigid regulation of the sale of deadly poisons might not put a stop to these crimes, but it certainly would make them more difficult. At the least legislatures would do well to prohibit the sale of sudden death in the shape of cyanide of potassium, and other similar drugs, except to physicians and those who are known to have a legitimate use for them.

The final settlement of the so-called German potash dispute out of court, so to speak, is a decided triumph for sane diplomacy. Those who may recall the histrionics which attended the discussion of this question nearly a year ago, the hysterical demand for a tariff war with Germany, the impassioned denunciation of Germany and the appeals to the department of state to wield "the big stick" may be surprised to find the announcement of a final settlement, apparently satisfactory to all concerned, in a brief cablegram from Berlin.

The Journal of the American Medical Association warns against the use of thyroid as an obesity cure. It is dangerous because it reduces protein as well as fat, and has been known to bring on serious illness. Most cases of undue weight are due to overeating, or lack of sufficient exercise, or both. The safest treatment for obesity is abstemiousness combined with exercise—not too violent, for that might injure the heart.

Glad tidings from Washington. The bureau of engraving and printing will put on an extra force of workmen in order to get out a large supply of small bills. We like the small bills because they are so democratic.

A wireless message has beaten all records by going a distance of 4,000 miles. Modern magic has gained mastery over both time and space in a way formerly thought possible only in fairy tales.

FARM BY IRRIGATION

There Are Three Principal Reasons for Many Failures.

Many Make Mistake in Assuming That by Use of Large Quantities of Water Careful Culture is Not Necessary.

(By M. E. LAYNE, Houston, Texas.)
The three principal causes of failure in farming by irrigation are over-planting, under-cultivation, improper application of water, and these apply to all classes of irrigation.

Many people make grave mistakes in assuming that by the use of large quantities of water in irrigation it is not necessary to cultivate as carefully as when the water is applied through rainfall. This is a mistake and one that the beginner is liable to make.

First, one must use good judgment in applying the water so as not to scald the plants and cause the ground to bake or become hard and packed, thus damaging the crop instead of benefiting same by irrigation, losing your time, cost of producing the water and damaging the land, losing interest on the investment and deterioration of your plant.

Water should be applied in deep, narrow furrows between the rows of truck or trees (preferable by sub-irrigation), permitting the water to sub-irrigate as much as possible. Never allow the water to flood the surface of the ground, excepting on rice and possibly alfalfa or small grain crops, if it can be avoided. As soon as the water has been taken up by the soil and the ground is in good tillage condition, you should cultivate, filling the furrows, keeping at all times a good loose mulch, such as advocated in the Campbell system of dry farming. This will prevent evaporation, leaving the soil in a good, productive condition. It is best, when possible to do so, to apply the water in the evening or early in the morning, especially on truck.

You will remember when nature applies the water the clouds usually shade the earth, cooling same after the rain, and the clouds usually continue to shade the earth until the soil has properly absorbed the moisture; otherwise scalded crops are the result.

Always follow watering with careful cultivation, as soon as the soil is in favorable condition, bearing in mind that weeds consume water and sap the strength of the soil and that the sun will absorb the water unless the loose mulch is retained. In other words, use as little water as possible and much cultivation and then good results will follow. In this way you will reduce the cost of irrigation, owing to the less amount of water used, and your land will remain in excellent condition.

The usual method of applying water: Flood the ground with too much water, little cultivation and sometimes none. The result is baked and packed soil, plenty of weeds, yellow and dwarfed plants, and irrigation pronounced a failure when it is the irrigator and his methods, or a lack of method, that is the failure.

In order that it may be clear, you will see that a reasonable amount of water, properly applied, keeping a good moist subsoil, gives the desired results, while much water improperly applied at an increased cost means no crop but plenty of weeds and land left in poor condition.

By pumping water from wells or streams, where the lift is from 50 to 100 feet, and the careful use of same, a handsome profit can be realized, depending, of course, upon the local conditions, kind and number of crops produced per annum and prices received for same.

We can assure you that, in our opinion, backed by years of actual field work, the American people are just entering the greatest development in the irrigation line the world has ever known, and much of the water used for same is being obtained from the underflows, subterranean rivers, sheet or ground water, all of which are supplied by the rain or snow from the mountains. In many instances the rain falls upon porous formations, such as sand or gravel, porous rock or boulders, disappearing beneath the earth's surface in said formations, passing through the earth, and in some instances the water appears miles away at the earth's surface in the form of a spring or an artesian well that flows of its own accord and pressure.

Providing Grain for Colts.

Farmers should not forget that draft colts need some grain this fall. When the pastures are short, a little grain will effect wonders in a colt's development.

They may be left to eat with the mares, but it is better to provide a place of their own, when they get the amount intended for them. There is no feed better than oats for young stock, but it is also a good idea to give a little corn. A little feed at this time will do much to make big drafters out of them.

Repairing Tin Gutters.

An easy way to repair a leaky bucket or tin gutter so it will last a year or more, is as follows, says Popular Mechanics: Paint the metal inside and out; then paint one side of a strip of cloth, and apply to the inside painted surface of the metal. Paint over the cloth and metal, and you will have a first-class repair.

DYNAMITE TO DIG DITCHES

Western Farmers Now Blow Up Earth to Let Water Through—Swamp Lands Difficult to Ditch.

Western farmers are now employing dynamite to dig drainage ditches. The method is simple and effective in wet and damp ground.

The first step necessary is to determine on where to put the ditch and how wide and how deep it shall be. Then holes are punched with a crowbar at two foot intervals along the course of the center of the proposed ditch. In to each hole an eight-inch dynamite cartridge is dropped and tamped in with the mud.

After punching 75 or 100 of these holes and loading them, a time fuse and blasting cap is applied to the center one. When it explodes all the rest follow suit. A long sheet of mud flies into the air, and there is left a fairly well made ditch. The excavated dirt is scattered over the adjacent land, much to its enrichment, and there is little need for the shovel except to even up the sides. The first time the water goes through it trues up these banks.

The depth of the ditch is regulated entirely by the depth to which the cartridges are sunk. When an extra wide ditch is required all that is necessary is to put in a double row of cartridges. This center firing method has been found to be possible only where the soil is damp and compact. In sandy or other dry and loose soils the charge cannot be depended upon to set off each of the others, but a separate cap and fuse must be placed on each to make sure.

Swamp lands, it has been found, are difficult to ditch in this way, because almost invariably they are underlaid with hardpan, through which the water has never been able to escape. This hardpan is usually several feet in thickness, and the plan followed is to bore a hole with an extension auger down almost to the bottom of the hardpan. Several cartridges are usually necessary to secure force enough to break open the hardpan and allow the water to seep through, thus draining it off and leaving heavy top soils of great richness.

GOOD POINT ON IRRIGATION

No Greater Mistake Could Be Conceived Than That of Throwing Water on Plants in Sunlight.

A good many people have an idea that water shall not be thrown on plants in full sunlight. No greater mistake could be conceived, says a correspondent in Gardening. The damage to a crop occurs during the noon hours, and if we could spray our fields between 9 and 3 o'clock, say once an hour, we could overcome severe droughts very well. In our case there was never enough water used to wet the earth so as to form a crust; we used the wheel hoe freely to keep the soil mulch in shape and only enough water to prevent flagging in the hot sun. The results obtained were beyond expectations. Plants made excellent progress and the cost of this treatment would be no greater than the constant weeding and hoeing needed in a wet season; added is the high market prices for all goods of fine quality.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Crates, barrels and boxes for cellar storage must be clean and dry. Ashes spread under pear trees are good as a tonic. Most soils lack what ashes give.

Fruit and vegetables retain a much richer flavor if buried than if stored in the cellar.

To prevent rabbits from gnawing the bark and limbs from small apple trees, spray with soapuds.

Pruning during the dormant season encourages vegetable growth. Weak trees may be invigorated by proper pruning when dormant.

Leave the fruit out in some cool building till about time for a hard freeze. It will keep better than if put down cellar when first picked.

When potatoes and apples are stored in a cellar look at them every few days all winter and see that the ventilation is just right.

Prune out old canes of raspberries and blackberries and burn them. Thin the hills to three or four shoots. Cultivate, and add some manure to the soil.

To secure maximum crop of fruit of the best quality it is necessary for each tree in the orchard to have a maximum amount of vigorous fruit-bearing surface.

For wounds on trees, melt rosin and pour three parts into one part of previously warmed crude petroleum. This will not run in warm weather nor crack in cold.

If you intend to plant a new orchard buy the trees which are best adapted to your climate and soil. Consult with the orchardist in your state experiment station.

Orchardists who have never used dynamite should be sure to get all possible information from the manufacturers of the explosive before attempting to use it.

Houses for Winter Farrowing.

Provide good individual houses for sows due to farrow in cold weather. A canvas or burlap curtain hung in the door will keep out the cold and make the house more comfortable for the young litter.

A lantern hung in the sowhouse on very cold nights when the pigs come will temper the atmosphere and aid in saving the lives of some of the pigs.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

Find Petrified Daddy of All Lobsters



CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The progenitor of all the lobsters and the original oyster that existed eons before the first man who was brave enough to swallow one, have been added to the geological collection of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and they are only two of 2,000 specimens of petrified remains of prehistoric creatures gathered by Prof. Hervey Shimer and Mrs. Shimer during a six months' tour of Bohemia, France, England, Ireland, Wales and other countries.

The lobster, a fine specimen, existed about 50,000,000 years ago, the geologists calculate. It was found in the mountains near Bohemia and many miles from the sea.

This is not to say that lobsters grew on trees in those remote days; the

water, receding in the course of ages, left the lobster stranded and he got petrified. Similar but much more modern phenomena are not unknown here. Harvard and "Tech" students are sometimes left stranded after buying many lobsters of a night, but they do not get petrified, of course.

Millions of years after this particular lobster passed away the sporty young men of the stone age cracked its descendants with their flint hatchets and treated the stony show girls of that period. Indeed, some geologists claim that the term "lobster" as applied to sporty young men who do that sort of thing has descended from the stone age; they have been doing so ever since.

The petrified oyster is much more ancient than any ever found in a church steeple. It also lived and breathed and had its troubles and joys 50,000,000 years ago. Prof. Shimer found it atop the Jura mountains in north Switzerland. How it got there only geologists can tell you; perhaps oysters carried alpenstocks in those days.

Razers Eye a Historic Old Mansion

PHILADELPHIA.—Through the recent death of Miss Jane R. Haines, after a lifetime spent within its rambling, tradition-haunted halls, Wyck, the ancestral Haines mansion, at Germantown avenue and Walnut lane, is threatened with possible destruction, should the historic ground on which it stands be sold.

Under its weather-beaten eaves repose perhaps, more sturdy mementos of Philadelphia's history than in any other private manse of the many for which the city is famous.

Floored upon which the blood of British and American soldiers mingled during the battle of Germantown, is stored for keepsake in its cobwebbed old attic. The chair in which Lafayette sat when he visited Germantown in 1824, and when he was given a reception at Wyck, is still to be found in the midst of the silent quietness of the now untenanted old homestead.

The nucleus for the old structure was first built in 1698, by one Dirck Jansen, whose daughter married one Caspar Wistar; through the marriage of Wistar's daughter to Reuben Haines in 1760, and by subsequent inheritance through direct kinship, Miss Haines came into possession of the long, white, hospitable-seeming



old structure, which took its name from an old English residence belonging to the family.

The Germantown road, when the original house was built, was nothing but a winding woodland path, and an Indian trail diverging from it passed where now stands the conservatory on the Walnut lane side of the house. So much did the early settlers respect this Indian right of way that it was temporarily arched over in the enlargement of the building, and so remained until long after Germantown avenue was opened.

Apart from its historic significance, this fine old haphazard bit of progressive building, between the dates of whose earlier and later portions runs the span of more than two centuries, is a favorite object for the artist's brush to capture for portrayal on canvas.

Farm Waif Wins Fortune in the City



KANSAS CITY, Kan.—There is in this city a woman, still young, whose ambition was born when she was an unsophisticated country girl of 13, who did not know what failure meant, and who came to the city and made a fortune in open competition with shrewd financiers and daring speculators.

Annie J. Scott, a penniless orphan, was sent to a farm in Lafayette county, Mo., when she was 8 years old, as nursemaid and "help." The success of a neighbor's child incited her to study and save money, so that she might attend the Warrensburg Normal school. She milked cows, sold butter and saved \$50. Then she went to Warrensburg and worked her way in three years through the normal school, graduating in 1894.

Her first ambition was to become a missionary, but she became ill and was cared for at the German Hospital in Kansas City. There she determined to be a doctor, and in 1897 en-

tered the medical college of the University of Kansas, where on graduation she finished third in a class made up almost wholly of men students. It was the winter of the first smallpox epidemic in Kansas City. She was employed by the city and cared for 2,000 smallpox patients. When she left her position with the city in 1902 she had \$2,000.

With two partners she invested it in an 11-acre tract near Forty-third, street and the State line. This tract was platted in city lots and marketed, and in a year she had her \$2,000 back and \$5,000 more. Then she put the \$7,000 in an adjoining tract of 22 acres, with the same partners, and they cleared \$55,000.

In the succeeding five years she built and sold 200 houses and cleared more than \$100,000. She draws her own plans, buys her own material and personally "bosses" each job she undertakes, overseeing every detail of the work.

In 1908 this young woman of 33, who a few years before had been an ignorant country girl, without money, friends or relatives, paid the penalty of her success by breaking down in health. She was in a nervous collapse and had to cease working. She lost more than half her fortune before her health was restored.

Aged Newsie Leaves Hoard to Church

ST. LOUIS.—Lawrence Ring, for 57 years a familiar character in the vicinity of Third and Chestnut streets, where he sold papers, died at the City Hospital of apoplexy. Recently his will was filed for probate, and after that tales of fortunes deposited in various banks were heard.

"Larry" lived the life of a recluse. His home was a single room in the antiquated structure at 6 North Third street. There he came of an evening, cooked his modest supper, smoked his pipe and pored for hours over the news of the world. He was believed to be about 75 years old.

He was a veteran of the civil war and a pensioner. He was on the vessel which was blown up at Fort Fisher. Of this it was his greatest pride to tell. Often he declared that Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila, had been his captain. But he never told anyone he had a bank account.

In his will he leaves to the pastor of the old cathedral on Walnut street \$50 for masses for the repose of his soul and the rest to the church fund. He named the Mississippi Valley Trust Company executor. Just what



the "rest" will amount to no one knows. However, his deposit at the trust company was but \$100. He also had a safety deposit box in his name at that institution, which has not been opened as the key could not be found.

Father Eugene Coyle, pastor of the old cathedral, said Ring had been a regular attendant at early mass Sundays as long as he could remember. An Italian grocer at Third and Chestnut streets said Ring was well to do and said the old man had told of a saving of \$4,000.

His room was modestly furnished and orderly, but there was nothing of value to be seen. Ring had been sick a week, and was taken to the City Hospital a few nights ago, friends having telephoned the dispensary that he was unconscious.

A HEALTHY, HAPPY OLD AGE

May be promoted by those who gently cleanse the system, now and then, when in need of a laxative remedy, by taking a desertspoonful of the ever refreshing, wholesome and truly beneficial Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, which is the only family laxative generally approved by the most eminent physicians, because it acts in a natural, strengthening way and warms and tones up the internal organs without weakening them. It is equally beneficial for the very young and the middle aged, as it is always efficient and free from all harmful ingredients. To get its beneficial effects it is always necessary to buy the genuine, bearing the name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—plainly printed on the front of every package.

ONE WAY OUT OF IT.



The Deacon—You shouldn't fly your kite on Sunday.
The Boy—Oh! well, de kite's made out'er a religious paper.

Expensive Possession.

A small applicant for Christmas cheer was being interviewed by the charity worker.

"What is your father?" asked the latter.

"E's me father."

"Yes, but what is he?"

"Oh! E's me stepfather."

"Yes, yes, but what does he do?"

Does he sweep chimneys or drive busses, or what?"

"O-o-w!" exclaims the small applicant, with dawning light of comprehension. "No, 'e ain't done nothin' since we've 'ad 'im."—London Answers.

Mary's Little Postscript.

Mistress—Mary, wasn't that gentleman asking for me?

The New Maid—No, mum, he described the lady he wanted to see as being about 40, and I told him it couldn't be you.

Mistress—Quite right, my dear. And you shall have an extra afternoon off tomorrow.

The New Maid—Yes, mum! Thankee, mum! Yes, mum! I told him it couldn't be you, as you was about 50.

Mistress—And while you're taking your afternoon off you'd better look out for a new place!

And the love of money is also the root of much matrimony and all ill-mony.

TIED DOWN.

20 Years' Slavery—How She Got Freedom.

A dyspepsia veteran who writes from one of England's charming rural homes to tell how she won victory in her 20 years' fight, naturally exults in her triumph over the tea and coffee habit:

"I feel it a duty to tell you," she says, "how much good Postum has done me. I am grateful, but also desire to let others who may be suffering as I did, know of the delightful method by which I was relieved.

"I had suffered for 20 years from dyspepsia, and the giddiness that usually accompanies that painful ailment, and which frequently prostrated me. I never drank much coffee, and cocoa and even milk did not agree with my impaired digestion, so I used tea, exclusively, till about a year ago, when I found in a package of Grape-Nuts the little book, 'The Road to Wellville.'"

"After a careful reading of the booklet I was curious to try Postum and sent for a package. I enjoyed it from the first, and at once gave up tea in its favor.

"I began to feel better very soon. My giddiness left me after the first few days' use of Postum, and my stomach became stronger so rapidly that it was not long till I was able (as I still am) to take milk and many other articles of food of which I was formerly compelled to deny myself. I have proved the truth of your statement that Postum 'makes good, red blood.'"

"I have become very enthusiastic over the merits of my new table beverage, and during the past few months, have conducted a Postum propaganda among my neighbors which has brought benefit to many, and I shall continue to tell my friends of the 'better way' in which I rejoice." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "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.