

Corner for the Juniors

WAYS OF THE AMERICAN BOY

Cabinet for Collection of Curious Little Things Youngster May Pick Up is Inexpensive.

By KATHERINE AHERTON GRIMES. Big sister calls it "cluttering trash," and big brother says, with a superior smile, "You'll know better some day." Mother dusts it carefully, with an indulgent smile over her boy's odd little bunch of treasures; but father says heartily: "By the way, old fellow, here's a queer thing I picked up this morning. Thought you'd like it for your curiosity shop."

For father has been a boy himself, and understands how near to a boy's heart is the collection of odd and interesting things he has picked up in out-of-the-way corners. He knows what it means to find a bit of rock with a curious fossil shell in it, and what a thrill of delight it sends down one's spine to chance upon a real Indian relic—a flint spear-point, a sharp-edged "skinning knife," or a delicately tinted bird-arrow head, no larger than a thumb-nail.

It is a problem to find a satisfactory way of displaying all these things. They are usually tossed about here and there, and the one you want to show a friend is always the last one to come to light.

A good cabinet for such a collection may be made as follows: From a foot board of half-inch lumber cut four three-cornered shelves that will just fit into a corner of the room. Bore in the corners of these quarter-inch auger holes, an inch back from the edges. Procure three pieces of stout twine, each about five feet long. Binder twine is very good for this purpose. At one end of each piece fasten firmly an empty spool, about the size that number 8 thread comes on. Then pass the other ends of the twine pieces up through the



Diversion for the Boy.

three holes in the bottom shelf. On these cords string more spools, until about a foot of each is filled. Then slip on another shelf, more spools, and so on until the four shelves are all in place. Bring the three cords together about 18 inches above the top shelf, so that the one on the back corner will run straight up the angle of the wall, while the other two slant back to meet it. These upper pieces should also be filled with spools. A stout loop at the top will hang the cabinet safely against the wall, or it may be allowed to rest on the floor, and be simply balanced by the upper loop.

Any size of spools will do to make this article, but those on which number 40 thread is wound are about the best. The spools may be either gilded or painted, and the shelves stained, painted or covered. One pretty cabinet made in this way had the shelves covered neatly on both sides with plain white oilcloth, while the spools were painted light blue, with a gilt band around the center of each. The loop at the top was hidden by a broad bow of blue ribbon. It was dainty enough for any room, and easily kept clean.

One of the most fascinating collections a boy can make is that of various rocks. Most localities furnish many varieties of these, and the enthusiastic collector usually has little trouble in making additions from other sources. Quartz, pyrites of various kinds, feldspar, granite, fluor-spar, "pudding-stones," slates, and the many interesting fossiliferous rocks, may be mentioned among others easily procurable, and of much interest.

The boy who lives near the water always likes to collect shells. These make a beautiful cabinet. If each has the place and date of finding written on the inside with India ink, the value of the collection will be much greater in after years.

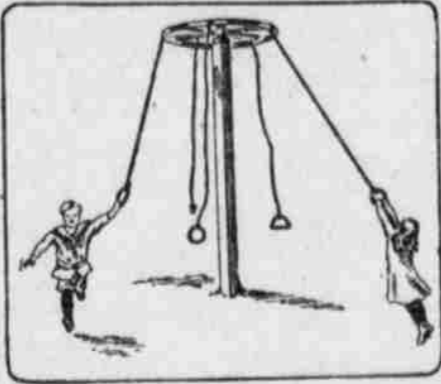
Although much of the value of such a collection lies in the sentiment connected with it, yet the habit of observation it encourages is a valuable acquisition. Altogether, the "collector's mania" is by no means nonsense, even if it does "clutter up" a corner of the room. What is the room for, anyway?

GOOD MERRY-GO-ROUND POLE

Single Post, Set Securely in Ground Where There is Sufficient Vacant Space, is Needed.

An inexpensive merry-go-round can be made of a single pole set in the ground where there is sufficient vacant space for the turning of the ropes. The pole may be of gas pipe or wood, long enough to extend about 12 feet above the ground. An iron wheel is attached on the upper end so that it will revolve easily on an axle, which may be an iron pin driven into the post. A few iron washers placed on the pin under the wheel will reduce the friction.

Ropes of varying lengths are tied to the rim of the wheel. The rider takes hold of a rope and runs around the pole to start the wheel in motion, then he swings clear of the ground, writes J. Berg Mitchell of Wichita, Kan., in



The Ropes Being Tied to the Wheel Rim Will Easily Turn Around the Pole.

the Popular Mechanics. Streamers of different colors and flowers for special occasions may be attached to make a pretty display.

FUNNY SAYINGS OF KIDDIES

Much Embarrassment in Church Caused by Alarming Discovery of Preachers' Small Daughter.

One of the most embarrassing situations in which I was ever placed, says Hilda Cowham, the artist, in the Strand, was caused by a niece of mine whose father was a clergyman and whom I took to church for the first time. She did not in the least know what her father did and for a long time did not observe him. But after sitting quietly beside me for some time, hardly daring to raise her eyes because I told her she must be quiet or she would not go to church again, she suddenly, in the middle of the sermon, looked up and saw him, and screamed: "Auntie, look, there's daddy up there! And whatever is he yelling about?"

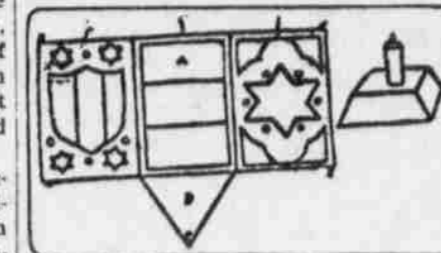
Which reminds me of two little nephews of mine who were taken to a churchyard by a very old and pious aunt. She, thinking to impress the surroundings on them, said, "You know, Jack and Fred, it is only the body that lies here. Now, what part of him goes to heaven?" "His head, I suppose."

There are probably many mothers who have had cause to smile at the quaint additions which their children at times have made to their prayers. A little girl friend of mine was once taken to a ventriloquial entertainment, which impressed her very much. While saying her prayers that night she asked God to look after all her brothers and sisters and make her a good girl. Then there was a pause and one heard, sotto voice, "All right."

HOME-MADE TOY IS AMUSING

Boy Can Make Lantern of Three Pieces of Pasteboard on Which Are Drawn Pretty Designs.

Boys love to parade with flags and lanterns. Lanterns are easy to make, and afford much amusement. The illustration shows one made of three pieces of pasteboard of the same size, on which are drawn star, shield and stripes. Any designs are cut out, and red, white and blue tissue paper is pasted on the inside to produce the pretty colored effect when lit by a candle from the inside. The sides are pasted together by strips of muslin by means of glue. The bottom of the lantern consists of a triangular piece of pasteboard which is fastened to the bottom of the sides with muslin strips. As every lantern has a candle inside you must make a place to hold the candle in your lantern. Cut a raw



A Home-Made Toy.

potato into a square slice about one-quarter of an inch thick. Bevel this slice as shown in the picture, and hold the center sufficiently large to insert the candle. Glue this to the bottom.

Willing to Be Heir.

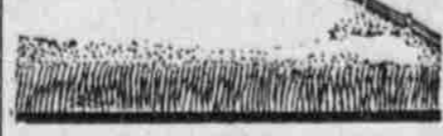
Outside it was snowing hard and the teacher considered it her duty to warn her charges.

"Boys and girls should be very careful to avoid colds at this time," she said solemnly. "I had a darling little brother, only seven years old. One day he went out in the snow with his new sled and caught cold. Pneumonia set in and in three days he was dead."

A hush fell upon the schoolroom; then a youngster in the back row stood up and asked: "Where's his sled?"—Truth Seeker.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

William Pitt



Clean up the garden.

Spread the manure daily.

The horse is still on the job.

Clean up the strawberry bed.

It takes 30 days to hatch a setting of goose eggs.

Stop at the top of the hill and let your horse get breath.

Give an ailing animal a change of diet. An ailing man, also.

Cool the milk as soon as it is out of the cow. This is very important.

Prune and burn all the diseased limbs and fruits clinging to the fruit trees.

Keeping two cows to do the work of one is the cause of many losses in dairying.

Charcoal in pieces the size of a pen or burnt cork once a week is good for all poultry.

One advantage in keeping poultry is that they eat much that would otherwise be wasted.

To thrive best the young pigs must have dry nests and the bedding should be changed frequently.

The man who fails to profit by his mistakes is losing one of the best lessons taught by experience.

Poultry makes good insect destroyers for orchards. Have the runs extend into the orchards when possible.

Don't disappoint your customers. Keep your promises and don't make promises unless you know you can fulfill them.

A good mixture for growing calves is five parts rolled oats, three parts wheat bran, one part corn meal and one part oil meal.

Sheep manure is one of the best farm manures. It contains a large percentage of nitrogen and a portion of phosphoric acid and potash.

It is much easier to run a flock of poultry down than to build it up, and nothing will run down a flock of chickens quicker than improper feeding.

For the production of sanitary milk the dairyman must have healthy cows, a sanitary barn, clean bedding, dust-free air, a clean barnyard and clean cows.

An acre of alfalfa will furnish more high class protein feed than almost any other crop that is grown in the sections where dairying is followed to the best advantage.

Provide ample roosting places for the growing young stock. Beware of crowding. Nothing is so conducive to colds as the overheating that comes of crowded quarters.

There is a good market for all kinds of feathers. Pick fowls dry and sort feathers, the coarse from the fine. They can easily be preserved until enough are collected to take to market.

While coarse manure hauled out and spread in the spring may not greatly benefit the crop of that year it is better hauled out at any time than left to leach and burn in the barn yard.

Machinery is necessary on the farm and cheaper than hand labor, and it is also more efficient in many cases. The farmer must have considerable money tied up in his machinery, and therefore it is necessary to give it the very best of care, both when in use and when stored.

In selecting the bulls to head the herd or buying any stock to put in the herd, ancestry is of as much importance as individuality, but both must be considered. It is wrong to take a poor individual because of ancestry and it is also wrong to take a good individual that does not have any ancestry.

Raise your own teams and one occasionally for your neighbor. So long as men use improved implements they will continue to use good teams. And the best way to have an efficient team on your own farm is to raise colts for this purpose.

If your poultry houses are old, after thoroughly patching them up, give them a thorough coating of strong whitewash containing kerosene oil and some carbolic acid. Give neat boxes, roosts and dropping boards their full share of it.

Call out the old hens.

Furnish sand to the ducks.

Keep the milk cool and clean.

Keep up the war on poultry lice.

Always scald the churn out well before churning.

About fifteen different breeds of sheep are now recognized.

Don't be afraid of getting the soil around the asparagus too rich.

Sheep do not drink much water, but what little they drink must be clean.

A lamb that is large and strong will stand weaning better, and also winter better.

There are few crops grown in the garden that cannot be followed by later crops.

The calf that has a dainty appetite is very apt to develop into a cow with a similar habit.

Sheep are a persistent agency of improvement to the soil of the farms on which they are kept.

What is the use of struggling along with sugar beets when good old alfalfa is the better crop?

There is much risk and little to gain in breeding heifers to calve while under twenty-eight months old.

The indifferent farmer is the one who is always most slow and careless when it comes to working the road.

This is a good time to begin teaching young stock to roost indoors, if they haven't been in the habit of doing so before.

Color of the egg shell has nothing to do with the flavor of the eggs as it is influenced by the food and the surroundings.

It is poor policy to change the quarters of hens or pullets while laying, for it usually checks or stops egg production.

The sooner the chicks' night quarters are made rat-proof the better. There is nothing to gain by running risks with rats.

As the weather grows cooler more corn and kafir can be added to the ration, but it is a bad practice to feed these grains exclusively.

Don't forget the sand for ducks. Besides a visible supply handy at all times, their morning and night mash should always contain some.

Do not throw out the sour milk; give it to the chicks; it's a valuable food for them and much relished. Skimmilk or buttermilk is also good.

To prevent the further spread of apple scab a second application of lime sulphur diluted one gallon to forty gallons of water should be made.

Parsnips and carrots are much better if allowed to remain in the ground until the weather freezes. Cover them with manure and they can be dug up at any time.

The young stock on the farm, especially the calves that are stunted in their early growth, are seldom as well developed as those that grow from the very beginning.

Many growers do not know the value of humus; they are satisfied with their soil. Humus is the life of your land. Add vegetable matter to your soil whenever you can.

The prosperity of any agricultural community is dependent largely upon the character of the soil, as well as upon the climate, market facilities, character of the people, and other factors.

Never has the summer silo been more valuable than it has this season. Such a year ought to convince every dairy farmer that he needs just such provision as this against possible shortage of feed.

The Maine Experiment station tonic for fowls is as follows: Pulverized gentian, one pound; pulverized ginger, one-quarter pound; pulverized salt-peter, one-quarter pound; iron sulphate, one-half pound. Mix thoroughly, and use two or three tablespoonfuls in ten parts of dry mash.

Charcoal is a pressing essential for poultry. Instead of buying it, rake up some old chunks of wood, cobs and other refuse about the place, setting fire to them. When the heap turns to a mass of hot coals, smother it down with a little water or dirt, and when it cools, you will have a handy supply of charcoal and be rid of the rubbish.

The decrease of the lumber supply has resulted in a steady advance of prices, so that the growing cost of building has become a serious problem on the farm. This question may be greatly simplified by a study of the use of concrete.

Damaged foods, such as moldy grains, old musty beef scraps, decayed vegetable matter, tainted meat, green cut bones, and improperly cured alfalfa are the common causes of a large percentage of the diseases affecting poultry.

HINTS AND FACTS OF HORSES AND MULES



Home From the Fields.

(By J. M. BELL.)

The very high price of both hay and grain is forcing farmers to sell all surplus stock. Some prices can be picked up by farmers who are supplied with feed.

Some buyers want the advice of a veterinarian before they purchase, if so, then by all means pick your man.

When a horse or mule has done his steady work in a city for 20 years, is sour stiff and generally incapacitated, he is a poor investment for anyone most certainly the farmer who is looking for a bargain.

Some men wash their teams all over, each evening when work is done, (during the summer season), a good plan as it removes sweat most effectually.

Cribbing is a bad habit at the best, the only way to stop it is to use a tight strap around the cribber's neck. The writer has cured several of these unsatisfactory animals.

Interfering behind is a bad habit in a horse, as a remedy use only one or two nails on inside of shoe and curve shoe properly inside.

A balky horse had best be gotten rid of as a balky horse. Let the other fellow cure him.

Shying can sometimes be cured by letting the horse pass slowly by the terrifying object. Severe punishment rarely makes a cure.

Musty hay carries many ills. Keep a good-sized lump of rock salt in each horse trough.

Save money by having the old horses' teeth flattened so they can grind their feed.

Water for the horses should be fresh from the pump during the winter months—no ice water.

Work or exercise the stallion daily, and your next season's colt crop will be much more satisfactory.

No horse is well broken until he has no fear whatever of the automobile.

Try to turn your horse's back to the wind and blanket him when tying him up, as the wind blowing against his breast is apt to lay the foundation of rheumatism, stiffness and similar ailments.

If the brood mares are not worked regularly, see that they get out in the open air and sunlight and move around.

Often we do not appreciate the virtues of the modest, unassuming mule. He costs no more than a horse colt to foal and raise and is less trouble and expense to put in the harness. He is not as susceptible to disease as the horse, and he is not so easily made stiff or lame. He requires less feed than a horse of the same size, yet will do as much or more work with less fatigue. He will do you 20 years' faithful service.

See that the animals are comfortable and that they have at all times plenty of water.

This may be the threshold of the horseless age, but just try to buy a pair of good horses and you will find out that the horse is still in good demand.

The best sale you can possibly make of your farm crops is to sell them to your stock in the way of food. And then, too, the fertility of the soil is kept where it will bring the biggest returns.

With the increased prices of horses, more attention is being paid to the care of the feet.

Most of the trouble with horses' feet is caused by improper shoeing.

"Breaking a horse" is a harsh expression. Nowadays the farmer "gentles" the colt without ruining its disposition.

LIME IMPROVES SOIL CONDITIONS

On Some Land It Is Necessary as Actual Plant Food for Alfalfa and Clover.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

When we apply lime to our soil we look to its effect upon the soil rather than to its direct influence upon the plants. While many farms contain sufficient deposits of lime, it is also true that many soils are deficient in this element.

Lime has various functions. It corrects soil acidity; thus stimulating the action of the bacteria that assist in making plant food available and gather nitrogen from the atmosphere. It changes dormant plant food into active plant food, by carbonating the soil water and makes it a more powerful solvent.

It improves the physical condition of the soil by making a heavy soil more friable and a loose soil more compact. On some soils it is needed as an actual plant food, for such crops as alfalfa and clover.

There are various kinds of lime used for agricultural purposes and each kind has certain advantages but my experience has led me to believe that it is much safer to use the carbonate, or ground limestone, because it does not have a tendency to destroy the humus in the soil, especially if large quantities are used at one time.

On heavy soils that are inclined to be wet the caustic lime will have more beneficial effects and liberate more plant food. Such land requires a more powerful agent to tear apart and decompose the soil particles and improve its physical conditions. For sweetening the soil the carbonate, or ground limestone, is equally valuable.

Lime should be applied early in the spring, when it has not been applied the previous fall, and should be applied a number of days before fertilizer and be thoroughly incorporated with the soil.

If fertilizer containing nitrogen is applied where it will come in contact with the caustic lime there will be a waste of ammonia and a consequent loss of fertility.

The great question is how much shall we use. I believe that one ton of caustic lime is an adequate amount to supply at one time. If the ground limestone is applied, we may safely double the amount. A moderate application every four or six years is more desirable than a heavier application less frequently.

PROPER CARE OF SWEET POTATOES

Unlike Other Vegetables, Tubers Should Be Stored in a Warm and Dry Place.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Sweet potatoes need to be handled carefully if they are to be kept through the winter and unlike most other vegetables, sweet potatoes should be kept in a warm, dry place.

It is the first place sweet potatoes must be dug at the right time. They should be dug before the hard frosts have killed the tops, for this injures the quality of the tubers somewhat.

After digging, the potatoes must be handled as carefully as though they were eggs. Irish potatoes can be shoveled around rather carelessly, and often a bruise in one of the potatoes, or even a decayed spot, will not affect the other part which is left in sound condition.

But not so with the sweet potato, for a bruise at one end will affect the quality of the sound part at the other end and will render it unfit for use. This fact is not generally understood by many growers who handle sweet potatoes as carelessly as they do Irish potatoes.

This fact is responsible for many of the potatoes of poor quality which are served during the winter.

After being handled, the sweet potatoes should be stored in a warm, dry place. A temperature of 60 to 70 degrees is about right for the proper keeping of sweet potatoes.

Some persons have stored them in the sand, or dust from the country road, to help preserve an even temperature.

If the potatoes are stored in sand or dust, care must be taken that the sand is perfectly dry.

Handled carefully, sweet potatoes can be kept for some months and will be found of good quality late in the winter.

The Poultry Mite.

The red mite works at night; it crawls forth from its hiding place and attacks the fowls while they are at roost. Hundreds of these may prey upon a single hen, fill themselves with blood, and then crawl back to their hiding-places contented until the next night. During the day these parasites lie dormant in the cracks and crevices about the henhouse, hence they are not so easily detected by the novice.