

TRAINING THE EYESIGHT.

Its Acuteness Can Be Greatly Improved by Systematic Attention.

It is the opinion of Brudenell Carter, the eminent English surgeon, that the average acuteness of human eyesight can be very greatly improved by systematic training. In a paper read before the London Society of Arts on February 23, he urged parents and teachers not to regard sight "as a power or faculty which may be trusted to take care of itself," but to train it systematically by the aid of appropriate objects, and to test its quality from time to time, as is now done in the case of railway employees. In commenting on this address the Hospital says:

"Travelers have told marvelous stories about the sight of many savage tribes, and although some of these stories may be received with incredulity, while others are explicable by the greater clearness of the atmosphere in the countries which they occurred, yet there seems no sufficient ground for doubting that the visual function, like every other, is capable of being improved by judicious exercise, and especially by such exercise as is afforded by the necessity of reliance upon its faintest indications. There is no reasonable doubt that the Siberian Tartar, who, when looking at Jupiter, told Arago that he had seen the big star swallow a little one and spit it out again, had really seen, with his unaided eyes, an occultation of the third satellite. Sir H. Truman Wood, in discussing at the Society of Arts, spoke of an Englishman who could see some of the double stars; but it must be remembered that the Englishman could easily know what stars were double, and could perhaps fancy that he saw their peculiarity; while the Tartar could have had no knowledge of the very existence of the satellite if he had not seen it.

Mr. Carter maintained that the habit of seeing as much as possible, of earnest visual attention to the details of the environments, would certainly have the effect of increasing the activity of the visual functions, and also in all probability of promoting the growth of finer fibers in the retina, by the aid of which smaller images could be appreciated. He gave reasons for believing that the vision of town-bred children is less acute than that of the country-bred; the former seeing chiefly large objects, such as houses and omnibuses, under large visual angles; the latter habitually attending to smaller or more distant objects, and using the eyes under smaller visual angles. The general moral of the discourse was that all school-teachers should be instructed to test the vision of new pupils, and to record the fact in a register, at the same time calling attention of parents to cases of manifest defect, and thus enabling them to obtain timely advice, or to regulate the course of education with reference to special requirements of each child.

It was further suggested that vision should be trained in schools by the use of difficult test-objects set at proper distances, it being only work upon near objects that is ever injurious to the eyes, while work upon distant objects must always be of the kind by which the faculty exercised is likely also to be improved. It was maintained that sight might be permitted to take its place among the physical qualities that are made the basis of competition, and that prizes might be awarded for excellence. It seems certain that there are positions in life in which the power to see acutely might be quite as valuable as, or even more valuable than, the power to run swiftly; and there seems no valid reason why the recognition which is given daily to the latter should not be extended also to the former.—Literary Digest.

Florida May Furnish the Cigars.

The Cuban war has done one big thing for this country; it has compelled recognition, indirectly, of the value of Florida lands for the production of the finest tobacco in the world. In the course of his recent trip to the south, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson was astonished to discover that 160,000,000 Havana cigars were actually grown and manufactured at present on the Florida peninsula. Already great areas in the western part of the state are planted with this crop, and extensive arrangements have been made for its introduction into the central region. Thus, it may be expected that before long Florida will rival Cuba as a tobacco producer, in respect to the quantity of yield, while the quality of its cigar leaf seems to be quite equal to that of the famous Vuelta Abajo. All the conditions of climate in Florida favor the production of the highest grade of tobacco. The soil is much like that of Cuba, and, by the aid of the system of spraying that imitates natural rainfall, the plants are ripened in 45 days after they are put out. Tobacco can be grown almost all the year, and crops can be set out in every month nearly.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

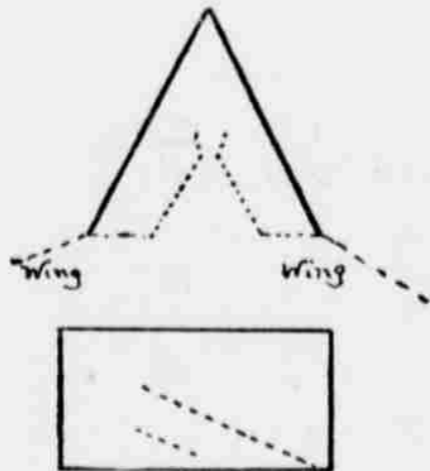


SIMPLE FISH TRAPS.

They Work Well at the Seasons When the Furry Creatures Are Running Up the Streams.

Fish traps are very convenient methods of taking fish at the seasons when they are running up the streams. They are generally made of laths in the form of a V, with the apex pointed up the stream. Wings are fitted inside, as shown in the upper part of cut, so as to hold the fish which enter, as they have the habit of following around the sides, and in every instance miss the opening by which they entered, and are thus imprisoned, and easily dipped out with a hand net. This method of taking fish is mostly used to take eels, which always come up streams to spawn in the spring; and thus these traps are commonly called eel traps. Other fish which spawn in the fall are thus taken at that season.

There is no reason why the traps should not be made of wire netting, which should not be less than one-inch



TWO SIMPLE FISH TRAPS.

mesh, so as to let the small fish go through, except that a good many fish will get caught in the meshes, and die before they can be taken out. This is an objection against making the wings of wire, for many fish would be caught by the net and be either lost or be taken out with difficulty. The ordinary method is to place a row of stones in the form of wings from the lower end of the trap across the stream; these turn the fish to the mouth of the trap, which they enter rather than try to get over the stones. This, however, is only possible in shallow streams, and in the shallowest parts of the bed. The trap is generally set in the deepest water, for the fish naturally choose this passageway. The wire netting, of course, would be open to the objection that it would catch all the floating trash going down the stream, and be thus very likely to be broken. This might be easily removed, however, and it is the only objection, except the cost of it, that lies against it.

Another form of trap for fish is also shown in the lower part of the cut. This is a box of any convenient size, set in a stream, with wings placed to direct the fish to the opening. It is open at the front, of course, and the top as well, and two rows of bars, or in this case, of wire netting, are set across as shown. The fish go over the bars and, being stopped by the end of the trap, go down between the bars, and, like a chicken hunting the hole in the fence through which it got into a garden, try everywhere but at the right place. A few may escape, but very few will.—Rural New Yorker.

SHEEP AND FERTILITY.

Some Reasons Why Every Western Farmer Should Maintain a Flock All the Year Around.

At the late meeting of Nebraska live stock breeders Prof. J. A. Craig, of the Iowa Experiment station, spoke on "Growing Sheep." The American farmer had two problems to face in growing sheep. One related to the maintenance of fertility and the other to the profits that were to be reaped. The time was very opportune to urge upon the western farmers the introduction of sheep. New England had 4,300 abandoned farms. Farmers east and south are paying \$10,000,000 a year to maintain the fertility of their soils. May we be warned ere it is too late. The great economy of pasturing off such crops as rye, rape, clover and vetches is becoming more and more apparent. No other method of providing fertility is equal to it. One hundred breeding ewes on a farm will more than maintain the fertility of 100 acres of land, provided nearly all the food raised is consumed on the land, and provided clover to the extent of ten acres per year is one of the crops grown. From such a flock there should be 800 pounds of wool to sell in the spring, and 100 fat lambs to sell in the summer of 75 pounds each live weight. If the lambs are fed one-quarter of a pound of oil meal per day it would more than return to the soil all the fertility removed by the sale of the lambs. In his judgment good management would bring a return of five to ten dollars per head from each ewe, and the farmer may still maintain his flock without any deterioration.

HORNS A DETRIMENT.

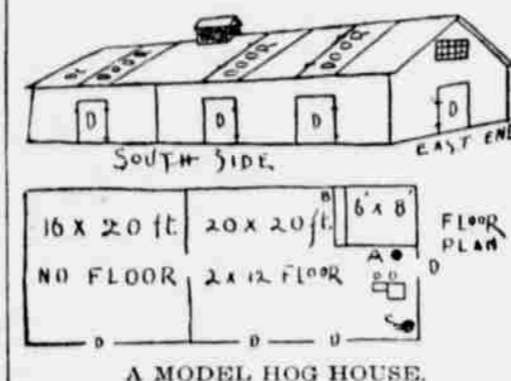
The Pain Attending Their Removal Is Very Much Exaggerated in the Mind of the Public.

Every now and then a protest goes up against dehorning cattle; the motive put forward is that of humanity, says the Wisconsin Farmer. In the case of breeding bulls, we are impressed with the belief that dehorning should not be done, although it is not motives of humanity that creates this belief. Merely as a belief, without pretense that it is an ascertained fact, we think that breeding qualities are likely to be impaired by the sacrifice of the horns in the case of horned breeds. Neither would we dehorn pure-bred cattle grown as breeding stock, but when horns are one of the characteristics of the breed, we would leave them there. When it comes to the question of animals that are to go to the feed lot they should be dehorned every time. A herd crowded together, as in the feed lot, will commit more cruelties and suffer more cruelty, a dozen times over, by reason of having horns than any that may be caused by the few moments of pain which result from the operation of dehorning. Indeed, from our observation of the operation and of the behavior of animals, while undergoing it, we are of the opinion that the pain attending it is very much exaggerated in the popular mind. No evil consequences follow it, and even the milk function in cows, which is so easily disturbed, suffers no disturbance worth mentioning when cows in full milk are operated upon. Those who make these occasional protests pay no attention to the fact that castration, spaying and the docking of lambs are operations at least as painful, and for centuries more common than dehorning. Perhaps this is just the point—that they are common. All cattle should be dehorned before going into the feed lot. It makes them quieter and more thrifty, the stronger tyrannize less over the weak, and all the cattle have more room in the same space, when the horns have been removed. In order to avoid the supposed pain attending the dehorning of animals, many advocate the use of caustic potash on the calf as soon as the buttons can be felt on the skull. This method is undoubtedly effective, and causes but little pain if the operation is done carefully and the caustic not allowed to touch the skin.

CONVENIENT HOG HOUSE.

So Arranged That It Has No Equal for Winter and Summer Feeding and General Comfort.

This is a very convenient hog house for winter and summer feeding. The building is 20 by 36 feet, five-foot posts; shiplap all around; grooved board and battens for roof; three doors on south side of roof to admit sunshine in winter, also on north for summer; three three by four feet on south, one on west, two on north, for hogs to pass in and out to run in lot for exercise. These may all be closed in cold weather. The floor, 20 by 20 feet, for feeding



A MODEL HOG HOUSE.

and water or slop; leave 16 by 20 feet, with no floor, for sleeping apartment. A bin six by eight feet, northeast corner, holds 160 bushels of shelled corn. B, self-feeder, which is made to regulate feed and is a success. A, near east door, a cistern which holds 100 barrels, is filled from windmill by hose or pipe underground. D D is a small trough or box for salt and lime. C, in southeast corner, a barrel with patent float or valve. In this house it will never freeze when the hogs are in and doors closed.

Winter feeding can be made as profitable as summer feeding. The bedding can be easily renewed and fresh straw put in. This house costs about \$125, including cistern. It is large enough for 60 to 70 until about December; then separate the finest and put about 30 on full feed. This house may be larger for less money, if cistern is omitted, as the cistern, including pump and pipe, costs about \$40.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Clover for Sandy Soil.

On all kinds of soil clover, when fully grown, is a benefit. Its roots break up the heavy clay soils and make them permeable to air and moisture. But on sandy soils a clover growth as often as every two or three years is a necessity. It is only thus that what vegetable matter it contains can be kept from being washed or burned away and wasted. It is often difficult to get a clover catch on sandy soil. Clover needs mineral fertility, both potash and phosphate of lime. In both these sandy soil is generally deficient. There is no better single manure for sandy soil than wood ashes. If from hard wood these will also furnish some lime and phosphate.—Prairie Farmer.



Looking Ahead.

"And do you love me for what I am or for what I was?" coolly asked the old millionaire with one foot in the grave. "For what you will be, dearest!" ambiguously replied the poor young girl, with a living to make.—N. Y. Journal.

Joy's Chief Essential.

A little fin de siecle child Was by its mother told Of Heaven where the angels all Played harps of purest gold. He weighed the matter o'er and o'er, Then shook his little head. "Harps may be good enough for some, But I want wheels!" he said.—N. Y. Journal.

WHOLELY UNNECESSARY.



Mother—Haven't you got your gloves, Alexander? Alexander—No, mater. But my hands are quite clean!—London Punch.

Talking Fight.

When, long ago, a man desired to be a pugilist He trained with care his massive arm, made hard his mighty fist; But in the art the changing years have wrought a revolution, And would-be bruisers train the voice and study elocution.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Didn't Show Up Well.

Mrs. Lake Front—I don't think any painting looks well in the horrid electric light. Hostess—Then perhaps you would prefer to remain in the drawing-room where the lamps and shades are.—N. Y. World.

A Pessimist.

May—Stella looks at the dark side of everything. Maud—Yes, indeed! Why, she is even afraid that she may not be able to have her own way when she is married!—Puck.

Explaining a Phrase.

"Willie Giggis is regarded as the flower of the family," said Maud. "Perhaps," rejoined Mamie, "that explains why we so frequently hear him alluded to by the men as a 'blooming guy.'"—Washington Star.

Sounds Impudent.

Mrs. Youngwife can't get through her head The ways of her servants; for lo! When she says to the cook: "We need bread," The cook says: "Then I'll knead the dough."—Harlem Life.

CONSOLATION.



Miss Scott—Yes, she has been saying all manner of wicked things about me. Friend—You should not heed her, dear. She merely repeats what other people say.—Punch.

Logical.

"Echoes my heart to your sweet words," She cried. Said he: "I follow. The reason's plain. Your echoing heart—Echoes, because it's hollow."—Puck.

Sarcasm.

"How easily she blushes." "Yes, all her family are troubled with rush of blood to the head."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

He Fell Hard.

"You look all broken up," said Tilghast to Gildersleeve. "Yes; Ada has dropped me."—Detroit Free Press.

A Pert Question.

Willy Peck—Say, Popper, Tommy Strongwill's father asked me a funny question the other day. Mr. Henry Peck—Did he, my son? what was it? Willy Peck—He asked me what your name was before you were married.—Puck.

Time's Changes.

Jasper—I think I am entering on the second period of matrimony. Jumpuppe—What do you mean by that? Jasper—When I was first married, if I got drunk, my wife thought I was sick, but now when I'm sick she thinks that I'm drunk.—N. Y. Journal.

Driven to It.

Kind Lady—If you need clothing, I can supply you with an old suit of my husband's, but they'll be about four sizes too big for you. Tramp—Never mind, mum, I'll wear 'em. I'd rather be mistook for an anglo-maniac than freeze.—N. Y. Weekly.

Poor Fellow.

Jack—How did you get so wet? Cholly—Walked six blocks in the wain. Jack—But you have an umbrella with you. Cholly—Yaas; but me man wasn't theah to put it up, don't ye know.—N. Y. Truth.

Worst Case on Record.

"Is it true that your husband is very absent-minded, Mrs. Newly?" "Perfectly. We've been married six months, and many an evening at 11 he gets up and takes me by the hand, tells me what a delightful time he has had, and would leave if I did not remind him."—Tit-Bits.

A Punctured Proposal.

"Sweet one," he cried, as he knelt before The maid he loved—but he said no more; They had been cleaning house, and he Ran a tack an inch into his knee.—Chicago Daily News.

THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.



Miss Society—My friends are all crazy to see me act. Mr. Callers (sotto voce)—They must be.—Chicago Record.

Patriotism.

The most devoted woman That you'll find about the place Is not so patriotic That she won't wear Spanish lace.—Washington Post.

No Reference Required.

Mistress—You will leave this house as quick as your week is up, and you need not ask me for a reference, either. Domestic—Sure, a reference from you wouldn't do me any good, fur O've towld iverbody there's no belavin' a wurrud yez say.—N. Y. Weekly.

Difficult to Suit.

Miss Kittish—I've had five men at my feet in the last few days. Miss Tenspot—My brother knows a man who is clerk in a shoe store, and he said you were the most difficult person to suit with shoes that he knew.—Up-to-Date.

Actually.

Wife—But you told me to get the gown, dear. Husband—You said it would cost only about \$25, and here is a bill for \$100. "Well, that is all it did cost the dress-maker."—Detroit Free Press.

Very Brief.

His sentence was a short one, And yet his mind is rife With gloomy thoughts; that sentence Was just two words: "For life."—Up-to-Date.

He Was Interested.

She—Do you think it would be possible for two people to live on a dollar a day? He (alarmed)—Why, dear, has your father threatened to cut you off with that?—Chicago Daily News.

An Eye to Business.

Dash—What did Jones say when Maud said she would be a sister to him? Cash—He replied that that would be satisfactory to him, provided they were to share alike under the old man's will.—Town Topics.

A Mysterious Malady.

She—Love is like sea sickness. He—Why? She—Because you can have it awfully and yet can't describe it.—Detroit Free Press.