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Escape from a Meteor.

A meteor, weighing nearly four and a half pounds, fell in an orchard near Namur, in Belgium, on April 13, narrowly missing a young workman. The meteor penetrated twenty inches into the ground.

Electro-Magnetic Velocity.

Recent experiments by Monsieur Blondot on the rate of propagation of an electro-magnetic disturbance along a wire showed, according to one series of tests, a velocity of 184,183 miles per second, and according to another series, in which the distance traversed was nearly twice as great, 185,177 miles per second. The velocity of light is about 186,300 miles per second.

The Swinging Earth.

It is known that the poles of the earth, instead of remaining fixed in position, revolve in small circles, or curves which are nearly circles, in a period of 427 days, and that another motion of revolution, considerable shorter, also affects the position of the poles. The cause of this "wobbling" is not known, but Prof. Simon Newcomb has recently suggested that it may be due to currents in the oceans and in the atmosphere affecting the equilibrium of the globe.

The Traveler's Tree.

Monsieur Bureau, a French traveler, disposes of the old stories about the "traveler's tree," in Madagascar, which has been represented as a great boon to thirsty wanderers on account of the water stored in its cup-shaped leaf-stalks. He says the tree grows only where there is a plentiful supply of water, and where rain falls frequently all the year round, and that since the leaves are situated at the top of the trees, which are very tall, the thirsty traveler would have difficulty in reaching them, even if it were necessary to do so in order to find water.

Nature Worked Backward.

An interesting story of a reversal of the ordinary course of nature, which cost a market gardener dear, is told by Miss Ormerod, the English naturalist. Watercress is eagerly devoured by caddis worms, but caddis worms are a favorite food of trout. The trout in turn have a voracious enemy in herons, which ordinarily catch the fish after they have grown fat on caddis worms. Recently it happened that a large grower of watercress had three-quarters of his crop ruined by the ravages of caddis worms. On investigation it was found that the trout, which ordinarily protected the plants from the worms, had been devoured, ahead of time, so to speak, by a flock of hungry herons, which in this reversing the course of events, had brought disaster to the owner of the watercress.

A Steam Bird.

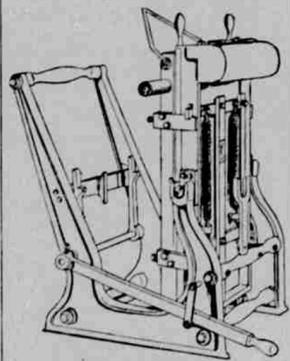
Prof. S. P. Langley, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has constructed a flying-machine, driven by a steam engine carried by the machine, which made two successful flights at Occoquan, Va., on May 6. The machine is not large enough to carry a man, and is only intended as a model for experiment. It is called aerodrome, meaning "air-runner." Its framework is of steel, and the length of its wings, or aeroplanes, from tip to tip is fourteen feet. No gas is used to lift the machine, the ascensional force being derived from propellers driven by the portable steam engine; and this force is made effective through the shape and pitch of the wings. In the air the aerodrome resembles an enormous bird sailing in broad, regular curves and gradually rising. When the steam gives out the machine, instead of tumbling headlong to the earth, settles down gently and right side up. The engine used at present is capable of driving the aerodrome about half a mile. On account of Prof. Langley's high standing in the world of science great interest has been aroused in his experiments.

The Color of Water.

The fact is generally known that pure water appears blue when light is transmitted through a sufficient thickness of it, and that when opaque particles are suspended in it the hue of the water is greenish. But while pure water looks blue when light passes freely through it, yet when it is contained in a deep, opaque receptacle, like the basin of a lake or the ocean, it ought to absorb all light and look black. Experience shows, however, that the deepest parts of the Mediterranean, for instance, appear not black but intensely blue. This has been supposed to be caused by minute particles held in suspension, but the recent experiments of Prof. Spring at Liege suggest a different explanation. He has found that warmer currents passing through pure water interrupt its transparency, even when the difference of temperature is very slight.

Such currents may cause deep water to appear blue by reflecting light back from its depths through the transparent layers above. This, it is suggested, explains the fact that fresh water lakes are more transparent in winter than in summer, because in winter currents of heated water are not traversing them. Even the shadow of a mountain falling on a lake may increase the transparency of the water by cooling the surface.

Stereotype Casting Apparatus.
Chas. M. Conley, for years an expert stereotyper and at present foreman of the stereotype foundry of the Chicago Newspaper Union, has perfected and patented an invention to automatically operate means for locking together the cover and matrix-bed of a stereotyping-casting box preparatory to the casting operation, and in like manner automatically to unlock the parts when the cast plate is about to be removed. Provision is made at different portions of the box against springing and warping of the parts in use, thus not only avoiding



THE CASTING BOX.

the danger of leakage of the molten metal, but also insuring a perfect cast-plate product. The invention is one of great value, as it not only saves time, but protects workmen from injury and makes possible a better grade of work. The accompanying cut will clearly illustrate the improvement to the skilled mechanic.

Childish Diplomacy.

We all know the child's aptness in "easing" the pressure of commands and prohibitions. If, for example, he is told to keep perfectly quiet because mother or father wants to sleep, he will prettily plead for the reservation of whispering ever so softly. If he is bidden not to ask for things at the table, he will resort to sly, indirect reminders of what he wants, as when a boy of five years and a half whispered audibly, "I hope somebody will offer me some more soup," or when a girl of three years and a half with still greater childish tact observed on seeing the elder folk eating cake, "I not asking." This last may be compared with a story told by Rousseau of a little girl of six years, who, having eaten of all the dishes but one, artfully indicated the fact by pointing in turn to all the dishes, saying, "I have eaten that," but carefully passing by the unchosen one.

When more difficult duties come to be enforced and the neophyte in the higher morality is bidden to be considerate for others, and even to sacrifice his own comfort for theirs, he is apt to manifest a good deal of skill in adjusting the counsel of perfection to young weakness. Here is an amusing example: A little boy, Edgar by name, aged five years and three quarters, was going out to take tea with some little girls. The mother, as is usual on such occasions, primed him with special directions as to behavior, saying, "Remember to give way to them, like father does to me." To which Edgar, after thinking a brief instant, replied: "Oh, but not all at once. You have to persuade him."—Prof. Jas. Sulley.

Fireproof Paper.

L. Froben, of Berlin, Germany, shows the production of a valuable article for industrial and other purposes. Ninety-five parts of asbestos fibre of the best quality are washed in a solution of permanganate of calcium, and then treated with sulphuric acid, which bleaches the fibre. After treating the fibre thus, five parts of ground wood pulp are added and the entire mass put in the agitating box, with the addition of lime water and borax. After being thoroughly mixed the material is pumped into a regulating box and allowed to flow out of a gate on to an endless wire cloth, where it enters the usual paper-making machinery. It is reported that paper treated thus will resist even the direct influence of a flame, and may be placed in a white heat with impunity. Ordinary paper may be made fireproof by treating with a fluid composed of 33 parts manganate of chloride, 20 of orthophosphoric acid, 12 parts carbonate of magnesium, 10 of boric acid, and 25 of chloride of ammonia to a quart of water. Paper saturated thoroughly with this solution will resist great heat.

Watts—Been reading anything about these Cuban atrocities? Potts—No, I've got a box of them at home yet that my wife bought three months ago from an alleged smuggler.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

No wonder bees are profitable; they steal all they eat from the neighbors.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

The Farmer Should Put a Fair Value on His Time and Labor—Be Equal to Any Emergency—Value of Timely Cultivation—Farm Notes.

What is a Farmer's Time Worth?
What is a farmer's time worth? That depends upon the farmer, but it is certainly a poor farmer who has no right to pay for his knowledge of the business and his management. The worker in any department of skilled labor is paid for "knowing how." Purely manual labor rarely gets more than enough for subsistence. This is a well-known law of wages that leads one to desire that his friends depend upon something more remunerative than mere manual labor only. Then shall the farmer have no credit except for the actual field labor performed, at the rates received by his hands? This is manifestly unfair, and yet on this basis are estimates usually made.

A merchant or manufacturer, controlling an amount of capital no greater than is often found in farms, allows himself a fixed salary, and it is charged against the business. This salary, of course, varies, but is several times greater than the wage with which the farmer credits himself. It now requires as much training and good management to run a farm well as it does to run any other ordinary business. A doctor or lawyer, when only a tyro, charges for his time several dollars a day, and very often his education and training has cost less than that of the farmer, who may have learned something in the schools and more by experience that cost dearly. The time of the farmer who thinks and plans to some purpose should be accounted worth as much to him as that of men in other occupations who use no more skill, education and good judgment. If this is correct, many of the estimates of the cost of production of crops, and of the interest on investment paid by farmers are inaccurate. Certain qualifications are worth very well determined wages, and their possessors should charge their business with their time at such rates. Only in this way can they tell what their invested capital is paying.

Skilled laborers get from \$2 or \$3 a day upward. If farmers credited their farms with house rent, table supplies, use of carriage, etc., as they should do, there would be more apparent possibility of allowing themselves a fair wage for their time; but whether any sum exists for paying it or not, the charge for management is a legitimate one and should be made in all farm accounts. If the results of a year's work be made public, it is unfair to give an estimate of cost of production, or of the profit in farming, that does not include this item of management at a figure equal to what it would be worth in other occupations. Such rating of one's time is not only the fair thing to do, but it may help us to realize that farming is not merely a manual pursuit.—Country Gentleman.

Equal to Emergency.

Perhaps thousands of your readers in all parts of the country will meet with some kind of an emergency every year, and they will be of all kinds, and no rule can be laid down further than to be ready and quick to decide what to do when anything can be done. I have in mind a friend in a neighboring State, whose wheat field is now five feet under water. The solution of his difficulty will certainly be very different from mine, when my wheat field has had but an inch and a quarter of rainfall upon it in two months. While we may not always know what to do, there is one thing not to be done; that is, fold our hands and sit down and grumble. Since I was seventeen, or for thirty-four years, I have managed a farm in the West, and there has always been a partial way out of every emergency in the crop line that has come before us.

Each section, or possibly each farm, must be a law to itself, but if the farmer is wide awake to the opportunity before him, can generally find some crop that can partially or wholly fill the place of the one lost.—J. M. Rice, in Farm News.

Value of Timely Cultivation.

Now that the growing season is here everyone who has any crop in the ground should endeavor to make the most of it, if it admits of cultivation, as do most garden productions and a number of field crops. It was Liebig, the German chemist, who said that "tilage is manure." Many do not understand this, thinking that cultivation is for the destruction of weeds, which is true, but of secondary importance. The first consideration is the benefit derived from the turning of the soil, weeds or no weeds. This should be done frequently, and besides, after every rain as soon as the ground becomes dry enough.

In addition to the cultivator and shovel plow and hoe there are a number of implements that tend to make the work more convenient. For hand labor, the garden rake is valuable, and for more intricate work close to grow-

ing plants the little tool with five bent fingers—a kind of iron hand—is excellent. The cost at the implement stores is but a trifle, or it could be made by a handy blacksmith.

The instruction given to the student of oratory in ancient times was "action, action, action." With the good gardener this is transformed into "Cultivate! Cultivate! Cultivate!"—The National Stockman.

Kafir Corn as a Feed.

As many of the readers of the Breeder will raise their own grain feed for their poultry, they must be interested in knowing the worth of Kafir corn as a poultry feed.

We have had two years' experience with it and find it par excellence. It is good for little chicks or old fowls. The grain is smaller than wheat, and little chicks will begin to eat it by the time they are a week old, and will grow like magic. They are very fond of it, and the music they make while devouring it is enough to gladden the heart of any chicken crank. Their little crops will stick out till you will almost think there are two chicks instead of one—a sort of Siamese twins, as it were. But don't worry about them; they will not be crop bound, for the Kafir corn does not swell in their crops. It has this rare quality to such a degree that, even though it be soaked in water over night, it does not swell.

As a feed for laying hens we have found it as good as the best of grains. And for moulting season, we have never fed anything that is near its equal. We never have had hens lay so well during this period as when fed on Kafir corn.

We think so much of this grain as a poultry food that, were we living in the city, where we could not raise it, we would hire some one to raise it for us. If we could not buy it at the feed store, the 1st of May is the time to plant it, and it should be planted and cultivated like our common everyday corn.

It is capable of yielding from twenty-five to fifty bushels of grain per acre, according to the season and culture.

Give it a trial this year. If your seed dealer asks you too much for the seed, most any friend you may have in Oklahoma will send you all the seed you will need if you will pay the transportation.—C. F. Mulkey, in Western Poultry Journal.

Old Apple Trees.

The theory is quite prevalent among many farmers that apple trees should be cut down when they cease to be productive in consequence of the decay of the branches. Oftentimes and in most cases such trees can be restored to a vigorous growth and healthy bearing condition by cutting away the old decayed portion and allowing new branches to take their place. This will nearly always follow when the trees are well cared for and a liberal supply of potash be given them.

I saw an apple tree recently on Orchard Hill in the town of Kensington, in this State, that was the last remaining tree of an orchard set out ninety years ago. All of the other trees were cut down thirty-five years ago. This one, bearing a favorite apple, by the pleading of a large family of children, was allowed to remain. Of late years the ground around it has been cultivated and it is a constant bearer. It is now covered with a dense green foliage and the limbs have made a growth this year of over a foot. Its condition today shows the folly of cutting down trees as soon as they cease to grow and bear fruit.

Plow around them, or where this cannot be done use a spring tooth harrow. Mutch them well and put on a good supply of muriate of potash, cut off the old, decaying, moss-covered branches, grow out a new top of smooth wood, and you will soon have the pleasure of seeing large smooth fruit growing, where once were only small inferior apples.

Age has but little to do with causing a tree to decay. One of the apple trees set out by the Arcadians more than 150 years ago is still standing near their old home at Grand Pre, N. S., and in 1804 was loaded with fruit.—Grange Homes.

Farm Notes.

In an Arizona bulletin a writer says: "In feeding forty or fifty cows I used sugar beets and added a certain quantity of corn meal. I increased the quantity of milk five to eight gallons a day and also the quantity of cream."

People who scrape and scour their trees just for the looks of it, and leave the loose bark on the ground where it falls, are adding the enemy. If there are any insects among the bark they are there still and out of sight of birds.

It is a common belief of farmers working small areas, and who can only make ends meet, that if they had more land they could make more money. The facts in the case do not bear them out. If a small farm is not made a success, the same management given a larger one will but increase the losses as a general rule.

Burn everything on the farm that serves as harboring places for insects. So doing there will be fewer insects next year and less work to do. Canes of blackberries should always be assigned to the flames in order to destroy the borer, and all diseased limbs and branches of trees should be treated in the same manner.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

A Moorish College is a Very Simple Affair—Parents Should Not Foster a Spirit of Rebellion Against School Rules—General Educational Matters.

Education in Morocco.

A Moorish "college" is a simple affair—no desks; no books; a few books. For beginners, boards about the size of foolscap, whitened on both sides with clay, take the place of book, paper, and slate. On these the various lessons, from the alphabet to the Koran, are plainly written in large black letters. A switch or two, a sand-box in lieu of blotter, and a book or two complete the paraphernalia. The dominie squats on the ground, tailor fashion, as do his pupils before him. They, from ten to thirty in number, imitate him as he repeats the lesson in a sonorous sing-song voice, accompanying the words by a rocking to and fro, which sometimes enables them to keep time. A sharp application of the switch to bare pate or shoulder is wonderfully effective in recalling wandering attention, and really lazy boys are speedily expelled. Girls, as a rule, get no schooling at all.

On the admission of a pupil the parents pay some small sum, varying according to their means, and every Wednesday, which is a half holiday, a payment is made of from half a cent to five cents. New moons and feast days are made occasions for the giving of larger sums, as are also holidays, which last ten days in the case of the greater festivals. Thursdays are whole holidays, and no work is done on Friday mornings, that day being the Mohammedan Sabbath, or at least "meeting-day," as it is called.

After learning the letters and figures, the youngsters set about committing the Koran to memory. When the first chapter is mastered—the one which with them corresponds to the "Pater Noster" of Christendom—it is customary for them to be paraded round the town on horse-back with ear-splitting music, and sometimes charitably disposed persons make small presents to the young students by way of encouragement. After the first chapter the last is learned, then the last but one; and so on backwards to the second, as, with the exception of the first, the longest chapters are at the beginning.—Harper's Magazine.

Obedience to Rightful Authority.

A bit of candy or cake surreptitiously given to a child, from whom these unnecessary articles are usually kept, not only disturbs the stomach—that would be the least part of it—but suggests a course of conduct which is unlimited in its possibilities of evil, for a luxury, harmless and even advantageous in itself, given in disregard of rightful authority, becomes an evil. Reverence for law, obedience to rightful authority, are most necessary in these days of independence, and anything which disturbs such reverence and obedience, however harmless in itself, should be scrupulously avoided. So far as an outsider is concerned parental rules for the child are absolutely inflexible, and obedience to his father's and mother's directions should be made as easy as possible to him. A similar principle should be recognized in regard to teachers. Parents are too careless in speaking disrespectfully of school rules before their children. A mistake in method of discipline is not likely to be so mischievous in its results as a spirit of rebellion against authority nourished in the child's heart. Discussion of teachers and their measures should be held in private; if they are thoroughly wrong the child should be removed from the school; if on the whole good, the errors should be excused.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Some Teachers Not Fit.

Some teachers have acquired the best of education, but are no more fit to train or teach our children in the schools than a hawk is to care for a brood of chickens; for as a hawk is at all times ready to seize its prey so are some teachers ready to give vent to their angry passion on some little child. Children are ruled at home by loving parents, and through respect and love they are easily controlled; but when they find that their teacher has no interest enough to sometimes be seen with them on the play ground, or hand in hand with some little tot on the street, they soon begin to think they are under no obligation to obey. I know of teachers with twenty scholars who don't find time to solve a problem nor for three or four days time to teach writing, and who keep little children sitting perfectly idle for hours at a time because they don't have time to waste on them. Now it is the nature of children to be busy, and if not otherwise employed of course they will be into mischief. We have some noble men and women in our schools and with them as teachers our children soon learn to be something more than "boobies." I believe care should be taken to employ teachers who are adapted to lead children into their school work with interest and, too, that teachers should be of noble characters. Parents should become acquainted with those who teach their children and have a

true interest in the progress of education in their localities. I think this is a very important matter.—Parent.

What May Be Expected.

Book and magazine publishers pour out a stream of literature on all the subjects that pertain to the welfare of the human being from the time the child is an hour old until it is twenty years of age. There are charts published to record the weight, height, speech, motions, consciousness, etc., etc., of the infant, and the whole mass of such literature is for the teacher—written by teachers, addressed to other teachers—no word of the parent. At this rate of progress toward making the school room the center of all human activity, civilization and development, in the course of a few years the teacher will be expected to be a specialist in the field of medicine, of the eye, ear, and throat; an adept in mental science, normal and abnormal; a sanitary engineer up to date on every modern appliance of heating, ventilating, lighting, seating; an authority on personal hygiene, clothing and corrective gymnastics; and a part of her daily duty will be to issue bulletins dealing with the disposition of the few hours that the child necessarily spends at home—bulletins stating the time of eating and the kind of food to be given—with a chart showing the psychological condition of the child, and an analysis of the kind of food recommended, the hour for bathing and sleeping, etc.—Tessa L. Kelso.

Our Nation's Hope.

Although I'm not a Senator,
Yet, still, I think that I
Can make a speech as well as one—
At least I'm going to try.

My teacher says I'm very smart,
And to my class a credit;
And, you bet, the highest prize
I'm going to try and get it.

My spelling, reading, numbers, too,
My penmanship and my dollars,
I know as well as those who wear
Their pica-dilly collars.

I'm getting kind of tired now,
And hope you will excuse me
From talking any further,
Or of nonsense you'll accuse me.

I see my mamma looking, too,
From her smiling I infer
She feels right proud of me, and I
Feel very proud of her.

Uniformity Will Disappear.
The last Legislature of Washington enacted a law requiring the State Board of Education to adopt, or re-adopt, text books for use in the public schools of the State, provided that the retail prices of the books adopted should not exceed two-thirds of the retail prices of the books heretofore in use. No proposals were received for high school books, except in the case of physiology, that came within the legal restriction; hence none were adopted except physiology, leaving all high schools to use what they may see fit on all other subjects. Uniformity, which has existed during the last five years, will probably disappear as a result of the operation of this law.—Educational News.

Don't Stop Growing.

The teacher who stops growing begins to lose teaching power. There are many petty annoyances which assail every teacher; and usually some one or more serious drawbacks to one's intellectual vitality. All these can be more than counterbalanced by the inspiring effects of new intellectual activity. If that is wanting, the friction becomes galling, the pleasure of the daily work is impaired, the teacher loses cheerfulness and energy and the old measure of success. The end of the year is a good time to determine that, whatever else is unattained in the coming twelvemonth, there must and shall be a healthful, intellectual growth.—Martin Kellogg.

Oh for School.

Oh! mamma, mamma, it's half past eight!
Where are my rubbers? I shall be late;
And where is my pencil? I know just where
' laid it down, but it isn't there.
Oh! here is my bag with my books all right—
I'm glad that my lessons were learned last night;
And now I'm off—here's a kiss—good-bye.

Torpedo for Grave Goods.
The coffin torpedo is the latest device to foil the grave robber.

Of late years the practice of despoiling graves has become so widespread that every effort has been put forth to find some means to end it. It is believed the present invention will achieve that purpose.

This new contrivance is a regulation bomb, as deadly as any ever invented by anarchistic genius. It is placed in the casket just previous to interment, and after it is placed in position and the lid of the casket screwed down, it will be an exceedingly dangerous undertaking to attempt to force the casket open. The lid of the closed coffin presses down a spring. Raising this lid, even in slight degree, releases the spring, causing it to strike a percussion cap. The resulting explosion of the cap also explodes the bomb, and, while the concussion would wrench the casket, it is almost impossible for the person who is trying to open the casket to escape instant death.—New York Journal.