

In Scotland four persons out of every thousand are insane. This probably accounts for the dialect stories.

A contemporary has figured out the fact that Turkey has thirteen times as many inhabitants as Greece has. That's very unlucky.

A novel Maypole dance, with ribbons intertwining, is performed by any number of bicycle riders between six and fifteen, though eight is preferred. The evolutions are varied and swift, and form a beautiful spectacle.

All the small mountain streams all over the American continent will soon be used to generate power. This means a considerable change in social conditions. The advantages of city life can be had then in remote places.

A Chicago bicycling journal contains the advertisement of a firm which offers "a first-class wheel for a lady with deep frame for \$65." Ladies who have that kind of frames will do well to bear this offer in mind.

There can be no doubt that Old Man Kruger is the best fighter with his head in the old world, and before he is crushed by military force he will tie the European diplomacy into a hard knot which it will take more than one power to untie.

The London News says that "Du Maurier used to keep a vase on his mantelpiece for his friends to drop jokes into, which he then used for Punch." We suspect that Du Maurier must have had on his calling list several secret enemies.

A new invention tests the density as well as size of the body. It is called the volumetric bath tub, and registers the comparative solidity or flabbiness of the tissues with remorseless precision. This looks like fresh trouble for persons who live by rigid rule.

A prominent member of the English Royal Botanic Society proposes to devote the Sahara Desert to the raising of esparto grass, which is almost as useful as wood pulp. Paper-makers have forgotten that they were once concerned about the scarcity of rags.

A Washington paper dismisses the rumor that Lillian Russell is again engaged to be married by the statement that she has not been divorced from Pergandi. Well, young ladies nowadays often are engaged for the next waltz before the quadrille is finished.

Mention is made of the launching of the largest merchant vessel at Belfast, Ireland. Her name is Pennsylvania. A man would take 250 steps to walk from bow to stern. She will carry 14,000 tons of cargo—or what 700 freight cars would hold. Another just as big is being built at Hamburg.

Military men claim to have made the curious discovery that the most powerful modern guns do not send a shot through an embankment of sand thirty feet thick. The projectile, following the line of least resistance, curves upward through the sand and is rendered harmless. If the theory is confirmed coast defense will be cheap and easy.

An alarm clock is not usually an object of affection, but one set for 4 a. m. saved the life of a whole family in New York last week. When it sounded the head of the family was inclined to swear, then he smelled smoke, and found retreat by the stairway cut off. Every one in the house was rescued by fire ladders.

A church in a London suburb in the course of a few years has added \$900 to its treasury by the sale of a three-leaved plant called Calvary clover. The leaves have a red blotch which gradually disappears with their growth, and the pod is spirally wound with interlacing points, resembling, when removed, a crown of thorns. It is customary to sow the seeds on Good Friday.

It took a Boston jury to discover that "Yankee Doodle" is not sacred. A Boston manager was recently arrested and fined for giving a concert on Sunday night that was not "sacred," according to law. A brass band had played "My Old Kentucky Home," "Au Revoir," "King Cotton," "Yankee Doodle," Gounod's "Ave Maria," and the "Red, White, and Blue." The Gounod number passed, but the jury held the other works secular.

Miss Clara Evans and a mouse, the one a teacher in a Baltimore public school and the other a resident of the same building, collided while traversing their respective orbits, and so startling were the noises which ensued that a panic among the children present was the result. They rushed for the door and down stairs in wildest terror, and a citizen who saw them emerge simultaneously into the street promptly turned in an alarm of fire from the nearest box.

The Windsor Magazine the other day told its readers what Mr. Balfour does before and after breakfast, and what he usually eats at that meal, and gives many details of his daily ride on his bicycle. Lord Salisbury is described as "preparing" around his home, though his object in doing so is not disclosed. The Chamberlain's "special brother" up to date has some years ago in day so

as a valuable journalistic find, and Mr. Chamberlain's method of going up stairs to bed is faithfully described. Yet the Saturday Review maintains that trivial journalism exists only in this country.

There are about 2,000 persons in France who are set down as anarchists and are under the constant watch of the police of the various European countries. They are of many nationalities, nearly three-fourths being foreigners and the remainder of native birth. Italy has the largest number, Switzerland next, with Germany and Russia following. Austria and Belgium are lowest on the list, their joint tribute to it being only a little over 100.

What is wanted in a real war correspondent is the nose for real news and the courage and industry that never tire nor quail when in pursuit of news. At the battle of Plevna Forbes crept up right to the Russian lines on an elevation that commanded both armies. There he lay for hours, using one eye to take in the fighting and one on his notebook. And as night was falling and the roar of the guns was dying away his description of the battle was being edited for the London News.

A strange fad that is gaining ground in England is the playing of the bagpipes by ladies after dinner. It was introduced in London a few weeks ago by Lady Elspeth Campbell, granddaughter of the Duke of Argyll, and now she has several imitators. It is brought from the Highlands, of course, where the playing of the pipes by the piper of the house has long been the accepted ceremonial for the conclusion of dinner among the great families. The pipes that ladies play in England are richly decorated and, it may be as well to add, specially toned down for drawing-room use.

The German naval authorities have decided to partially heat the boilers of their men-of-war with oil. This new oil is called "neausol." It is strictly a tar oil, a product of the distillation of lignite, and is dark brown in color. Special tanks will be constructed for it on each vessel, and from these tanks pipes will lead to the furnaces, and the oil will be conducted thereto through these pipes. From the pipes it will be ejected by steam in a spray, and the resulting flame is very bright and absolutely smokeless. So far as its heating power is concerned, it is declared to be greatly superior to coal. Another feature which has served to recommend it is its cheapness. The duties of the stokers are also greatly lightened by its use.

Washington Star: The death of an Iowa man as a result of injuries received in the course of his initiation as a member of a secret society is not the first known instance of fatalities consequent upon the useless and brutal practices of many organizations which make entry into membership a physical ordeal. The practice comes, doubtless, from olden times, when endurance was highly prized and praised, and the esteem in which a cavalier was held depended upon his ability to suffer uncompromisingly. The same tendency is met in penetrating into the inner life of savages, notably the Indians of North America, who torture themselves and each other as a part of their secret rites. But the latter-day initiations have apparently degenerated into horseplay in many cases, and serving no useful purpose and tending in no sense to preserve any desirable standard of membership, the question arises whether the time has come to abolish them altogether. The Iowa case is especially shocking and will doubtless meet with general condemnation from the outside public, as well as from a great majority of the members of all secret orders indulging in severe initiation rites.

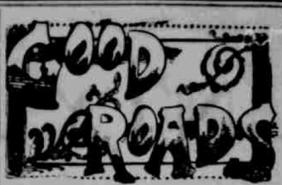
It is a pity that Lord Salisbury's reference to the Eastern question in his recent speech should present such a painful contrast to his hopeful and sensible words on the Venezuelan proposition. Regarding the Turkish outrages the Premier has but one thing to say. England will do nothing. In spite of her boasted power, Lord Salisbury does not think she could by her own unaided efforts subdue the barbarous oppressor, and the other foreign powers have shown no disposition to undertake the work jointly. Besides, if England should lay hand on Turkey, Europe might begin to fight, which is just what a good part of Europe, when meditating maneuvers against the Turk, has thought about England. The whole speech was the frank announcement that England will allow the brutalities committed by the Turk to pass unnoticed. The demands of Christianity and the tortures of the Christians are to be ignored, without even a persistent effort to arouse to action those European powers of which Lord Salisbury seems so much in awe. Such an effort at least might have been promised in the Premier's speech, but he speaks only of helplessness and inaction. The one thing upon which he is eloquently decisive is that the proposition to abandon Egypt and Cyprus in order to conciliate "the powers" is "pretty and idyllic," and that England will not "relinquish a single acre of the land she now occupies."

**Odd Facts About Madagascar.** Probably the sleepiest policemen in the world are those of Madagascar. At Antananarivo, the capital, there is little evidence of the force by day, for its members are all peacefully wrapped in slumber. At night, too, the guardian of property is seldom to be seen, and that he is actually guarding is only to be told by the half-hourly cry that is sent up to police post No. 1 alongside the royal palace.

**Watchman, what of the night?** "We are wide awake, keeping a sharp lookout, and all's well." Antananarivo has no lamps and no streets. It is simply a great collection of houses tumbled together. There is a big force of night police, known as the "watch." The men gather themselves together in groups, and choosing snug corners, wrapping themselves in straw mats, they drop into long, and profound slumber. One member of each group remains awake to respond to the half-hourly call from the palace. As he calls back, the others, half-awake, mechanically shout back the response. It makes little difference, however, that the police continually sleep, for robbery is rare.

**Curfew, though popularly supposed to be purely an early English and Norman-French custom, has been established in Madagascar for centuries. In every town and village between nine**

**and ten the watchmen go around shouting out in the Malagasy dialect, "Lights out!" and they see that all is in darkness in every house. After these hours no one is allowed to travel around without a special pass.**



**For Better Roads.** In some of the counties of the State a plan is being adopted which promises better roads. The matter is submitted to the people to vote upon, and, if carried, the trustees propose to do away with district road tax in the township. This official is to be selected because of his special qualifications, and will have in his charge all the road work in the township, collect poll taxes, and attend to all the work now looked after by the several district supervisors.—Spirit Lake Beacon.

**How to Get Good Roads.** If the Legislature of Illinois is really to enact legislation that will at once solve the convict-labor question and begin the work of giving this commonwealth a system of good roads, it should study the good-roads bill now pending before the Legislature of New York. The New York bill provides for a State highway commission of three, one of whom shall be a civil engineer, and the duty of the commission shall be to compile statistics, make surveys and maps, and pass upon material for certain localities and methods of construction, decide where State aid is desirable, advise and co-operate with local officials, and in general superintend the construction of roads throughout the State.

The need of good roads, though generally admitted, and in most of the States now urged upon the Legislatures, is not so commonly recognized in the United States as in Europe, though some of the States are fully awake as to the value of good roads to the prosperity and happiness of the people, and also to the fact that by employing convict labor in the construction of these roads a vexing problem can be solved.

As related in the Record's correspondence from Jacksonville, Fla., the other day, that State is moving with commendable industry and foresight in the matter of good roads. Jacksonville, according to Gen. Stone of the agricultural department at Washington, now has the best road in the world, extending a distance of six miles and with a width of thirty feet. It was built at a cost of \$6,000 a mile, and all the work done upon it was done by convicts. Gen. Stone's account of the progress of the good-roads movement, as given by the Record's correspondent, is exceedingly interesting and suggestive.

"There is more progress in the direction of good roads in the South than in any other part of the Union, except Massachusetts and New Jersey, and most of the work is done by convict labor. It would not be practicable to work chain gangs on roads in the Northern States, as is done in the South, but convict labor might be utilized in the preparation of the material, and prisoners in the county jails thus be made self-supporting, without coming into competition with honest labor. This is done in California in camps and quarries with great success. All the States are showing signs of interest in the good-roads movement, but no practical work is done west of Ohio, except in California, where Mr. C. P. Huntington has inaugurated a great work and stimulated public spirit in this direction. The State furnishes the counties with crushed rock, which is the best kind of road material, and it is prepared by State prisoners at 25 cents a ton—about one-fourth the market price. Mr. Huntington hands it to any part of the State that is reached by his railways for the actual cost of hauling, and the highway commissioners of the several counties put it down. There ought to be a highway commission in every State and a local commission in every county of the Union. I am going out to Illinois in a few weeks to see if I cannot interest your Legislature in the subject."

Gen. Stone may or may not be correct in his statement that it would not be practicable to work chain gangs on the roads in Northern States, as is done in the South. However that may be, his other suggestion, that convicts can be employed in preparing material for roads, is eminently practicable and would go far toward solving the convict labor problem in this State for many years to come.—Chicago Record.

**Novel Puppet Shows.** The latest toy from Paris is an ingenious optical illusion. Two panes of glass make the front and rear walls of a reservoir which is filled with clear water. The front is made of corrugated but clear glass. The rear one is made of smooth plate. A figure of a man cut out of cardboard is attached to a wire that passes under the reservoir. As the picture is drawn toward the operator, who is looking at it through the corrugated glass, the figure appears to be walking in a most natural manner. A clown with his pointed cap balanced on his nose, seems to be exerting all his cunning to preserve his equilibrium, as well as his own. Horses move, dogs dance, geese waddle, all in a manner to produce much amusement. Any colored pictures cut from newspapers or magazines may be used with this simple but ingenious toy, thereby prolonging its novelty and entertaining favor indefinitely. An ingenious youth will find this a new and amusing way to produce puppet shows and toy theatricals.

**Overdone.** "That's Simpkins, the poet, over there." "Is it?" "Yes. He hails from Boston, where they have so much culture." "H'm! I guess he got cultivated a little too much. He looks seedy."—Boston Ideas.

**Two Views.** "Plunks is all torn up about that burglary." "Yes; and Mrs. Plunks is tickled to death because now everybody knows that she had seven dozen silver spoons to be stolen."—Detroit Free Press.

**AGRICULTURAL NEWS**  
**THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.**  
**Treatment of Horses Afflicted with Heaves—Figs Should Be Fed Regularly—Advantage of Straight Rows for Cultivated Crops—Notes.**  
**Heaves in Horses.** Heaves is not so common a disease among horses as it was in former years. It may be described as a chronic disease of the breathing organs, without inflammation, characterized by a peculiar breathing, the breath being drawn in with ease, but breathed out with difficulty, and by two distinct efforts. The immediate cause is the rupture or debility of the small cells in the lungs, so the animal cannot expel the air he has drawn in without an extra and double effort. It is obvious, therefore, that the symptoms are readily detected.

Authorities say that when the disease is established it is incurable, though it can be alleviated materially. If the disease is not too intense some relief may be obtained by giving one-half to one grain of arsenic in form of Fowler's solution daily for several weeks. One authority recommends the following prescription: "Thirty grains each of cologne, digitalis, opium and camphor; make into a ball and give once or twice a day." After the first week the cologne should be omitted. But more valuable than any medicine is the food and treatment of the animal. The diet should be of the best quality and small quantity. Coarse foods should be avoided. Mouldy or dusty hay or fodder is especially injurious. Let him run on a clean, short pasture and the feed given be in a concentrated form, slightly dampened to allay any dust. Keep bowels loose.

**Feeding Pigs Regularly.** Much depends in feeding pigs on giving them their food at regular intervals. Then the pig will very soon become used to this, and will not expect his food until the next regular feeding time comes. The old saying that a squealing pig loses a pound of fat every time it squeals has this much of truth in it, that the irregular times for feeding will necessitate much of the squealing. This is the surest way to destroy digestion. This in pigs is not so strongly as in other animals. The pig is greedy by nature. Others must see to it that it does not eat more nor oftener than is good for it.

**Straight Rows for Beet Crops.** So much of the work of cultivation is now done with horse power that it is more than ever important that all rows of beet crops shall be as nearly on a straight line as possible. Unless this is done it is impossible to guide the cultivator so as to avoid destroying more or less plants, beside leaving seeds that cannot be thereafter uprooted except with great difficulty. When a weed is not killed by cultivation it is made all the more thrifty, for the pruning of the roots which cultivation gives makes new roots put forth just as it does for the crop. It is for this reason that after harrowing both ways over corn ground before the grain is up, the cultivator should be set to work between the rows. Just so soon as the rows can be seen. This will destroy any weeds that the harrowings may have missed.

**Kicking Cows.** A Western agricultural writer says that there are just as good milkers among cows that do not kick as there are among those that do. This, we think, is hardly the fact. It is the tenderness in the udder, caused by the presence of a large amount of milk, that makes careless handling of the teats very painful. The result is that the cow becomes a kicker, and soon this grows into a habit not easily broken. It is usually the fault of the man who breaks the heifer to being milked who is responsible for her character as a milker. If the first operations on the teats are gentle, drawing milk slowly until the bag is somewhat eased, milking is a soothing and pleasure-giving process for the cow. For the first few times the heifer is milked she should have some appetizing feed set before her, which she can eat while the milk is being drawn. This should always be given when there is danger that the cow will hold up her milk. The cow is a one idea animal. When she is eating heartily she cannot easily think of anything else.—American Cultivator.

**Fruit by Roadside.** Probably the best use that can be made of roadsides is to plant fruit trees beside them, especially of those that are somewhat hard to gather in quantity. We have in mind a farmer who, many years ago, planted a long row of cherry trees on the roadside, and far enough from the fence so that the trees did not injure the crops inside the fields. These trees never failed to furnish a paying crop, and some years the cherries were sold on the tree for four to five dollars per tree, and still paid a good profit to the man who bought the fruit. Very few cherries were taken by passers-by, though the trees were beside a well-traveled road. Most people while going along a highway are too busy to stop, and the tramps who were not too busy were generally too lazy. Probably if peaches or pears had been thus exposed the result would have been different. Even then a few roadside trees for the public would be apt to lessen depredations on the neighboring orchards, which near cities or large villages are the causes of much loss to fruit growers.—Exchange.

**Muskmelons on the Acre.** Cheap as muskmelons are at times, they pay better than do most staple farm crops for those who are willing to give them the care which all garden crops require. To get the best price

plant as early as the land is warmed at the surface. Frequent cultivation, leaving the land as light as possible, will do much to make it warm. So will planting on a newly turned two-year-old clover sod. The very earliest melons are planted in a compact space, with a box 10x12 over the hill to keep off winds through the daytime and to be covered at night. Ten or more seeds are placed in each hill, which are later reduced to two plants by the time the vines begin to run. One of the worst enemies of all melon plants is the white grub, the larva of the May or June bug. It will travel on the surface soil at night and eat the plants just at the surface. Wheat bran through which Paris green has been mixed and scattered around the stems of the plants will make short work of these pests. The grubs are very fond of the bran, and in eating it will get enough poison to kill them. This method of getting rid of grubs will not be practicable if fowls are allowed to come near the patch, as they are also very fond of the bran.—Agricultural Exchange.

**Alkali in Western Lands.** In an instructive paper recently read before a California farmers' institute by Prof. E. W. Hilgard, this subject was broadly considered, and it was shown that alkali is the result of disintegration of rocks and found only where rainfall is too little to carry it off in solution. The more common salts are Glauber's salts, common salt and sal soda. The last named occasions the principal injury by gridding plants at the surface. In connection with these salts are found others which are among the most valuable elements of fertility, mainly salts of potash and lime, and found in greater proportions in arid than in humid lands. These salts frequently appear on the surface only after irrigation. In such cases it will be found that they existed below the surface and were carried in solution by water used in irrigation and left on the surface by evaporation. A remedy is deep cultivation with thorough pulverization of the surface in orchard cultivation, to reduce evaporation to a minimum; or shading the ground with such crops as alfalfa. The more important discoveries are that the Australian salt bush will thrive on strong alkali lands and that they have also produced large yields and a fine quality of sugar beets.

**Raising Ducks.** In raising ducks set the eggs under hens; when hatched remove to a box lined with paper and kept in a warm place with all the sunshine possible. When two days old put in a board pen during day time. Feed bread soaked in water and pressed dry. Do not give them water to swim in until three weeks old. Dust with Persian insect powder once a week; when four weeks old feed on corn bread soaked in sweet milk; young onion tops cut fine and mixed with their feed are healthful. After four weeks old they will thrive on almost any diet and will grow with less water to swim in than is generally supposed. Always keep water for drinking as pure and clean as possible, changing often and putting gravel in the dish where water is kept.

**Poultry Pickings.** Don't have the flocks of hens too large. If you have more than seventy-five or eighty, they ought to be separated into smaller flocks. An egg contains from 25 to 27 per cent. solid matter, nearly 14 per cent. albumen. That means that laying hens need food rich in albuminous matter—meat, oatmeal, milk, bran, etc.

While poultry will not thrive on neglect, it is well to remember that over-feeding and lack of exercise are also fruitful sources of loss in the poultry yard. If we would keep up the vigor and fecundity of our flocks we must infuse new blood into them. If service or profit or vigorous growth is desired, there must be a frequent change of cockerels in the flocks.

Weed out the flocks, disposing of really old stock and the unproductive young. A few good hens, well cared for, will raise more chickens this summer than if a great flock is crowded together in unhealthy coops.

A Boston commission merchant says that if farmers would market all the chickens and eggs they can spare each week, they would be surprised at the regular income that they were receiving, and they would find more profit in poultry.

A writer says that crop bound is nothing more than indigestion, and that charcoal fed fowls rarely ever have this trouble. Then prevent it by every now and then charring several ears of corn and allowing the hens to peck it off.

**Farm Notes.** Lean the tree at planting towards the direction of prevailing winds. Bees need special care in early spring if profitable returns are secured. Syrup made of granulated sugar is the best and cheapest feed that can be given to bees.

A nearly eight-fold increase in the exports of oats is noted the past nine months compared with a year ago, the figures being respectively 26,000,000 and 3,500,000 bushels.

A cross between the Brown Leghorn and Buff Cochon is an excel. at egg producer and an ideal table fowl. Eggs will be had the year round and the hens make excellent mothers. Just before fruit blossoms open is the time to spray thoroughly to destroy bud moth, clear and pistol case bearers. These three insects do their most destructive work before blossoms open. To make grafting wax, melt together and pour into a pan of cold water rosin four parts by weight, beeswax two parts and tallow one part. Then graze the hands and pull the wax until it is nearly white.