The smallest man in the world is Major Gantz, of Fairfield, Iowa. His age is thirty-six years, he weighs thirty pounds and is eighteen inches in height. His parents reside in Farfield and are of average stature.

Leave a big red apple in plain view and the children will want it. You can't blame them for taking it any more than you can blame a dog for chasing sheep.

Strapped lace insects are noted.

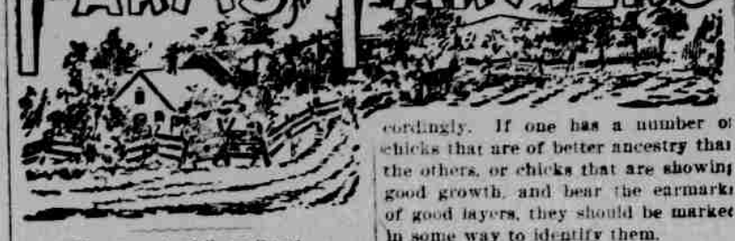
Double and triple skirts are voguish.

The highest inhabited spot in Europe is the observatory at the summit of Mount Etna, 9,076 feet above sea level.

Some of the students in Paris, when perusing ancient books in the National Library, protect themselves with muzzles. This is done to prevent the inhalation of dangerous microbes said to infest old volumes.

The jaw of the shark furnishes the best watchmakers' oil. In each shark is found about half a pint.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Treatment of Corn Smut.

The illustration shows the effect of the corn smut on the growing ears, and it is evident that the disease needs attention each season if the corn fields of following years are to be free from this troublesome difficulty. Probably the only way of getting rid of the trouble entirely is to gather the smut pustules before they break and scatter the spores. This work should be done as soon as the trouble is noticed, going over the field two or three times during the summer and gathering the pustules carefully, then burning them. In this manner the disease will be gradually stamped out. It must be remembered, however, that if the spores are scattered over the field the crop of smut next year will be correspondingly greater. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture has not been fruitful of results largely because the plants could not be sprayed at the proper time without danger to the pollen fertilization of the plant. Go through the corn field early and follow the plan suggested during the season, getting neighboring corn growers to do the same thing, and it will be comparatively easy to stamp out the disease in a section.—Indianapolis News.

CORN AFFECTED WITH SMUT.

Typical Dairy Cow.

An Agricultural Department bulletin shows an illustration of a dairy cow, whose general features, it is claimed, are almost perfect. She has a medium sized head and neck and a well defined shoulder and neck vein. The body or barrel is medium to long, but with a great depth through the digestive region and with a long, well developed hind quarter and a nicely shaped udder. She is short legged, close to the ground, angular and free from fleshiness. Her body shows symmetry, quality, correlation of parts and therefore stamina and great digestive capacity, and she exhibits every indication of the power to give a large quantity of milk. It is rare that any person purchasing a cow having such apparent constitution and conformation, and yet being a rangy, open jointed animal, will be disappointed in her as a money maker. There are exceptions to all rules, however, and no type can be described that will meet every contingency and pass every swirmish line unchallenged.

AN IDEAL DAIRY COW.

Feeding Bran.

With me stock always thrives when bran is fed in conjunction with grain. I had a young mare that got out of condition during summer, and I tried to fatten her on corn. I gave ten ears three times a day. She did not do well at all. I cut the corn down to six ears, with a quart of bran, three times a day, and I saw improvement at once. I drove her to buggy right along, and in three months she was fat and in splendid condition. I am careful never to use stale feed. That is what does the mischief. Young stock do better on a mixed feeding in which bran plays a one-third part. I have known a great many extravagant feeders who are careless about watering stock.—Cor. Rural New Yorker.

Cover Crops in Orchards.

Instead of the usual cover crops in orchards some farmers prefer to have the land cultivated in summer, thus killing weeds and permitting moisture and air to enter the soil, the stirring of the soil protecting the roots of trees. Late in the summer, about August or after danger of drought is over, clover is seeded and left until spring, the scarlet or crimson clover being preferred. If the land is left in sod as a cover crop it is claimed that the demands of the grass crop for moisture and plant food in summer injures the trees.

Watch Growing Chicks.

If one is in the poultry business in earnest, with a view to making a profit from it, due attention must be paid to the growing chicks; not only to keep them in the best possible condition, but to know which are the most promising for future work, and to treat them accordingly. If one has a number of chicks that are of better ancestry than the others, or chicks that are showing good growth, and bear the earmarks of good layers, they should be marked in some way to identify them.

Waste Products on the Farm.

The work done on the farm just before the busy spring planting begins is very important, if proper consideration is given the matter of saving that which is usually lost by inattention to details. The great waste of unsalable farm products amounts to millions of dollars annually, for farmers do not seem to understand that it is not always necessary to send produce away from the farms in order to find markets. The farm is the best market, in fact, that a farmer can have, for if he keeps live stock he will be able to sell his raw products by converting them into the forms of meat, milk, butter and wool. The difficulty is that the waste products on the farms are not properly utilized. One product that of corn fodder, has been wasted for years, though now it is being put to use with the aid of the shredder, but it is in the manipulation and handling of the manure and weeds that the lessening of expense occurs.

Fattening Old Cows.

There are those who think it does not pay to fatten old cows, but we do not agree with them. Given one fresh or farrow in the spring, a good pasture and a regular grain feed every day during the summer, and they can be made to pay for their grain until fall and they will continue to gain in flesh all the season. Then a little succulent food, as soft or immature corn, waste vegetables, pumpkins and such stuff as seems to cost nothing on the farm, and they will be in condition to take on fat very rapidly when the grain feed is increased. We know this because we have tried it. Beef that is made in that way may not bring the highest price when sold to the slaughterer, but when put on the bench to be retailed out it will be as good as much of the steer beef that the marketmen handle, and it will be sold at the same prices.—American Cultivator.

To Stretch Barbed Wire.

Barbed wire is uncomfortable stuff at the best. One of the easiest ways, perhaps, to handle it when placing it upon posts is with the device shown in the accompanying illustration. This frame can be quickly made and from it the wire can be unreeled as rapidly as a man can walk, pulling the framework after him. When his companion is ready to staple the wire to a stake, the pin is put through the side of the frame, locking the reel, when the wire can be pulled up as taut as desired.—New England Homestead.

FOR STRETCHING BARBED WIRE.

Swindling the Farmer.

Still another signature swindle is reported from Indiana. Sharpers from Chicago went through country districts, representing themselves as hunters. They would approach a farmer, tell him they wished to hunt on his land, and cheerfully pay $5 for a permit to do so. The farmer would sign a receipt for the money, and this turned up later as a promissory note for $500. It is said that the swindlers secured $5,000 in one county by this process. It is noticeable that most of the swindling schemes now worked to the detriment of the farmers, begin with the payment of a small sum, which disarms the suspicions of the victim.—Rural New Yorker.

Irrigating the Garden.

The usual method of watering plants of any kind is by surface watering and in normal seasons this seems to answer the purpose, although it involves considerable labor. In dry seasons or in any season where it is possible to carry on the plan at moderate cost, a plan of irrigation which will carry the moisture under the surface of the soil so that the plants may use it as desired will be found most advantageous. Such a plan can be carried out by a system of tiles, as it is done in arid sections, but when small areas are to be watered a number of trenches will answer the purpose if the water can be pumped into them at small expense.

Rust in Wheat.

Rust in wheat may be prevented by destroying the spores in the seed. One plan is to soak the seed in a solution made by dissolving a pound of sulphate of copper in ten gallons of hot water, allowing the seed to remain in the solution twenty-four hours, then drying the seed with fine land plaster and sowing or drilling as soon as dry. Wheat that showed indications of rust last year should be avoided, however, and new seed procured. It should also be planted on a different field from that on which wheat was grown last year.

Feeding Lambs Beet Pulp.

During the past season the feeding of lambs on beet pulp has been very satisfactory. At Lansing, Mich., some 3,000 were fed. Although at first the pulp was not relished and several died from eating it, later they did well. It seems that the pulp gives the best satisfaction when fermented a little.

When you run across a man who is cross and surly, in spite of the fact that you accost him civilly, it is usually a sign that some fellow has got away with him. But he was not cross to the man who got away with him; he is cross to his friends, who are good natured and polite, and thus advertises himself as an ass.

A newly born giraffe stands high enough immediately after birth. He then measures six feet from his hoof to the top of his head.

Vereschagin, the famous Russian artist, noetd for the vividness of his battle scenes, has suffered several injuries to his right hand. A leopard bit off the thumb, a rifle ball struck the middle finger during a

A man who claims to be a doctor and isn't can cause a whole lot of trouble.

Every woman exaggerates the length of time it has taken her to "clean the family silver."

A touch of black still distinguishes many of the smartest costumes.

The women are worked by peddlers but when a man is done up, he says it was an "agent."

On many sheer dresses there are ties instead of coat-tails.

India linen is ideal wear for sultry days.

Strapped Irish lace collars have great style.

White mohair walking suits are truly smart.

Tiny, linen-covered moles adorn linen dresses.

High-low necks are square, as well as round.

Flat rosettes work out some clever trimming schemes. Pale-blue lightweight broadcloth is lovely for cool day drives.

An Albion firm raised 1500 crates of strawberries on seven and a half acres and sold them for $2300.

MAN IN THE IRON MASK

Ancient Cemetery of St. Paul in Paris His Supposed Burial Place.

One of the old houses of Paris, situated at 17 Rue Beautreillis, is about to disappear, and the place thereof will know it no more. It has been handed over to workmen, who will demolish it to make room for a workshop. Rue Beautreillis is an ancient and narrow street which the omnibuses do not penetrate, remnant of the times when the Place des Vosges was the Place Royal and the home of beaux, "peruked," and red-heeled. In the garden of the doomed house, famous in times past as the residence of distinguished persons, is a grave which local tradition says is the resting-place of that mysterious figure in history—the Man with the Iron Mask, says the Paris correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette. One remembers that this remarkable person died in the Bastile in 1703 and the local register says he was buried in the parish of St. Paul. Now, this garden undoubtedly forms a part of the ancient cemetery of St. Paul, and the church, itself, is near at hand, set in the midst of a cluster of old houses. It is in the garden that the famous Iron Mask is said to have been buried, and the spot is the Mecca of daily pilgrimages. Outwardly, the place is unlovely enough, ragged and uncultivated. A few poor bedraggled flowers try to live on, cut off from the sunshine by the over-topping houses, and prematurely faded by the smoke from a neighboring wash-house, out of sheer respect for a great name. In a corner, where are the decayed trunks of some acacias, and where a pool of stagnant water gives an additional aspect of melancholy, is the reputed grave of the Iron Mask. The old attendant will tell you that the water does not run away because there is a vault beneath covered over with a thick bed of cement. In the middle of the garden there is a subterranean passage which leads by gentle descent direct to the cave of burial. The question which is agitating the minds of the "Old Paris" society which watches over these matters is whether the bones of this fascinating figure of a former century are really there. This will be settled, perhaps, when the tomb is opened. Will the strange instrument that he wore for so many years be found, rust-eaten, among the remains? Actually, there is on the grave a column which bears an inscription, cut with a knife, "Here lies Marchiali, the Man with the Iron Mask." It would appear that the inscription was copied from a stone, which was formerly in place there. The ancient cemetery of St. Paul is now almost built over. Here, however, if one may again believe the tradition of the quarter, have lain the ashes of Rabelais, of Mansard, the architect who built the Bank of France, and the hotel, now the Musee, Carnavalet, of Moliere and his spouse, Armande Bejart.

Another Illusion Dispelled.

Ruthless bacteriologists destroy one by one our fondest illusions. Now faith in the purity of glaciers must go the way of other popular fallacies.

Hitherto the man in the street had imagined that were all the waters of every city and plain polluted he would still find immaculate springs in the Alps. But M. Binst, who presides over a chemical laboratory at the Pasteur Institute, having no such faith, obtained some ice from the glaciers of Mont Blanc itself and placed it under his pitiless microscope. His verdict shatters the dreams of mountaineers. It appears that even the summit, which so long remained untrodden by human feet, has lost its purity, if it ever had any.

The ice in question, and water melted therefrom, were found, on bacteriological analysis, to be "peopled with colonies of microbes." The statement which follows is particularly terrifying. It appears that "the germs in question were found to belong to the most varied families of bacteria."

M. Binst accounts for the pollution of the Mont Blanc glaciers, says the London Telegraph, by surmising that the microbes have been conveyed to the mountain peaks by the winds sweeping the cities in the valleys.

Criminal Carelessness.

A woman was recently robbed of $3,000 in bills at 8 o'clock at night, her dress being literally cut from her body by the thieves. An unprotected woman has no business to be carrying $3,000 at night anywhere unless she is prepared to take the consequences.

Within the past year the newspapers have recorded hundreds of cases of murder, assault, torture, robbery and arson, all due to the criminal carelessness of people keeping in their houses or on their persons, large sums of money which should be safely lodged in the banks. Many people are prejudiced against the banks, but where there is one bank failure there are a hundred robberies. It is easy to take proper precautions but practically impossible to catch thieves.

An Economical Parson.

"Br'er Williams, all thoo' de winter season you wuz preachin' red-hot sermons on hell fire, en now dat de spring come you ain't got a word ter say 'bout hell fire. How come?"

"Br'er Thomas, de wayfarin' man, do' mighty foolish, mout er knowed why dat wuz. In de winter season, Br'er Thomas, coal wuz $6 a ton."—Atlantic Constitution.

Foreshadowings.

"Somethin' is bound to happen to old Jones if he keeps on the way he's goin'."

"Think so?"

"Yes. He'll either git kicked by a mule or run for the legislature."—Atlanta Constitution.

Owners of automobiles say that men who see machines for the first time, pretend to know all about them, and make suggestions as to their management and imrpovements.

An Atchison man was told that another man wanted to see him. "I'll bet a hundred" he said "that he doesn't get it."

How it amuses people when a doctor gets sick!

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