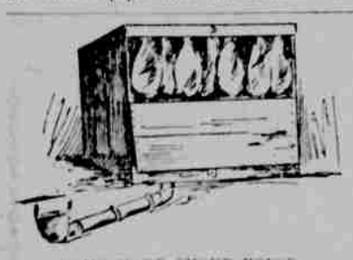

### House for Smoking Meats.

Many farmers sell off the hogs raised on the farm and buy the hams and bacon used in the family, giving as an excuse that a well-arranged smokehouse is too expensive for them to have. The smokehouse shown in the illustration, while a homely affair, gives good service and will cost but little to build. A dry goods box or a piano box will answer the purpose nicely. The bottom is removed from the box and a hinged door is arranged as shown so that the meat may be easily put in and taken out. This cover is arranged so that it can be fastened with a staple and hook when the meat is being smoked. The smoking arrangement of this box is an ideal one. A hole is dug in the ground six or eight feet from the box and a trench dug from the hole to a point about the middle of the box. Have a length of stove pipe fastened to an old, heavy tin kettle, into which a hole has been cut by the tinsmith. When ready to smoke the meat build a fire of corn cobs in the kettle, set it in the hole and add stove pipe lengths to the center of the house, terminating with an elbow. After the fire is well started cover the kettle with a piece of tin, to force all the smoke possible through the stove pipe into the house. All



HOME MADE SMOKE HOUSE.

cracks about the house should be filled in so that the smoke will not escape. This is a crude affair, but it does the work quite as well as the most expensive appliances attached to smokehouses.

### A Succession of Damages.

"I remember," says Farmer Grindstone, "what an orful time two of my neighbors onct had when I lived down in Kansas. They used to spend every livin' thing they could scrape together a-lawin' of it over line fences. Gill's cows would break through Jones' fence and destroy his corn, and Jones would set his dog onto 'em and maim one or two, and Gill's boy would shoot the dog, and Jones would lick the boy. Then Gill would sue Jones for not keeping up his fence, and Jones would turn round and sue Gill for the damaged corn, and Gill would sue Jones for the damaged cattle, and Jones would sue Gill for the damaged dog, and Gill would sue Jones for the damaged boy; and the outcome of the whole performance would be that Gill would have left a damaged cow and a damaged boy and Jones would have a damaged fence and some damaged corn and a damaged dog, and after both havin' used a good deal of damaged language they would find their bank accounts badly damaged and the lawyers would get the benefit of the harvest.—Field and Farm.

### Mulching the Strawberry Beds.

The most successful growers of strawberries in the country have decided that spring cultivation is not desirable, although for years this was the universal practice. They do the cultivation for the year after the plants have fruited, and in the winter mulch the plants lightly, putting on only sufficient to keep the plants from being heaved out of the ground by the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil in late winter and early spring. The mulch is left on by some growers until after the picking season, when it is raked up in piles and burned to destroy the insects in it; other growers rake the mulch off in the late spring and burn it, applying fresh mulch, which is allowed to remain during the season and until after picking. Either plan is good, but the main thing is to apply the mulch and do it as soon as the ground is frozen. While the plants may not need protection from the winter, the mulch will assist in protecting the crowns and the delicate runners and new plants which set late in the season, and it keeps the soil from becoming compacted by the heavy rains of winter. In all sections where there is winter, mulch is desirable for strawberry plants, and as it costs but little and is quickly applied, there is no excuse for not doing the work and reaping the profitable returns.

### Breaking Colts.

Train the colts in winter. They are more easily handled than in summer because they are glad to see you coming to feed them. Then you can rub or pat them while they are eating. Halter and lead them to water and thus teach them to be led and become bridlewise. Ride them about now and then when you have time. In the spring when it is soft hitch them with a gentle horse to some light work for a few times and your colt is about ready for service.

### How to Handle Incubators.

I have had an experience of ten years, with four different makes of incubators, and have learned a few necessary things. One is that any incubator, if rightly handled, will give good results, or when poorly handled will make a failure. The best hatch I have ever made was 93 per cent, the poorest 50 per cent of fertile eggs. I have raised with brooder 70 per cent of chicks, and without brooder only about 50 per cent.

I have found that a child cannot operate one, as it requires brains, common sense and judgment, with a knack for surmounting unexpected difficulties. Too much attention is worse than not enough, twice a day, if properly adjust


HOW THE EGG SHOULD LOOK.

ed, being all that is needed to look after a machine.

Avoid too much moisture. I use none now, having nearly spoiled a hatch in that way once. Cool and air eggs once each day, and turn twice. Don't fuss with eggs or chicks. Extremes of heat say from 90 to 110 degrees, not too long continued, will make shells tender, and give better hatches. Chicks are as healthy as those hatched under hens and have neither lice nor mites to contend with. One incubator holding 200 eggs requires about the same care as three old hens on forty-five eggs. A moisture test is absolutely necessary. The picture shows how the egg should look at different periods. A cave or cellar is the best place to operate an incubator. A brooder should face the south and have sunshine.—Mrs. L. M. Lutton, in Farm and Home.

### Feeding Damaged Corn Fodder

It is utterly useless to feed damaged corn fodder to cattle that are designed for market, for they will not gain a pound of fat on it. If possible, avoid feeding the frosted fodder at all, but if it must be given the stock, furnish it only after they have been well grained and had a fair supply of good roughage; give it to them largely for the purpose of keeping them busy when they are in the barn between meals. They will eat a little of it and break up most of it, so that it can afterward go to the hogs to nose over and from there to the manure heap. In many sections the corn crop was heavy, but in many instances badly damaged. If too badly damaged to sell to advantage, it may be fed, together with barley and oilmeal, to great advantage, giving it freely to cattle that are being fattened as well as to milch cows. In feeding this mixture the oats and barley should be ground together and the oilmeal added afterward and well mixed through.

### To Tighten Barbed Wire.

A guard from a mower or reaper, as is caught on to the wire. Through one end is pased a loop of stout wire, b, 1 or 10 inches long. The lever, d, should be four or five feet long. A common fence staple should be used at c to hold the loop b. By this method wire may be tightened for several posts at the same time.


### Farm Notes.

All animals of the same variety are not alike, and scarcely any two will do equally well on the same feed. Each animal's wants should be supplied if possible. Cattle of different ages should be separated for feeding, as the weak ones will not do well with the strong. Cows are weak and shy; it takes them longer to eat their meals and they should, therefore, be put where they cannot be domineered by their superiors in strength.

There are two most important things to be kept in mind by the fruit raiser—pruning and mulching. If those two duties are well performed success is nearly always certain. If well mulched the fertilizing material is thus supplied by filtration from the mulching down to the feeding roots, which is the very best self-regulating method of fertilizing. By allowing this mulching to remain in winter and early spring the roots are kept moist and vegetation prevented from springing up around bushes, or a heavy sod from forming.

### Creamery Don'ts.

Don't let your tubs get moldy.

Don't churn the cream at too high a temperature.

Don't overchurn the butter and make it salvy.

Don't handle your tubs with dirty greasy fingers.

Don't let the steam run down while the separators are running.

Don't let the tubs stand in the hot sun after they reach the station.

Don't mix grades without marking them and think they will all pass as extras.

Don't think that the commission men are all trying to beat you in weights and prices.

Don't weigh too heavy and expect your weights to hold out at the other end of the line.—Creamery Journal.



The dam in the Nile at Assoun will throw back water 10 miles.

The flounder is an industrious fish, and lays 7 000 000 eggs in a year.

There is one remarkable peculiarity about camels. They are the only animal that cannot swim.

Only 24 per cent of doctors attain the age of 70 years. About 42 per cent of clergymen reach that age.

What is often miscalled stinginess is prompted by a sense of justice; we are close that we may pay our just debts.







Peckham now possses the first English branch of the Anti Treating league, founded last year in Ireland.

Strong protests are being raised in India against the abandonment of the dumdum bullet for frontier fighting.



Part of the mane of the charger ridden by the Duke of Wellington at the battle of Waterloo has been sold in London.



Some of the employees of Sir Redvers Buller's Devonshire (England) estate have been in the same service for over fifty years.



It is proposed to erect a monument to Dante in Rome on the site now occupied by the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius.

Last year the United States Postal Department handled 19,954,437 pieces of mail which were incorrectly or imperfectly addressed.

There are a number of tests which, applied to diamonds, will enable even the inexperienced to detect imitation stones. One of these is to place the diamond under water, and, if possible, putting a genuine stone beside the doubtful one. The former will sparkle and be distinctly visible while a spurious stone will be practically extinguished. Genuine diamonds are apt to be cut with less regularity than thhe false ones in order to save as much material as possible. Another test is to examine an ink spot on a sheet of white paper through a diamond. Where the stone is counterfeit the spot will appear multiplied and the outline blurred. Jewelers sometimes apply a drop of fluorhydric acid as a test. The acid will eat into any false diamond and frost it, while the genuine stones will not be damaged in the slightest degree.





### Such Conceit.

Barnes—Charley appeared to be willing to acknowlede that he was in the wrong. He said he was quite aware of his shortcomings.

Shodd—Isn't that just like Charley? Always braging about what he knows!—Boston Transcript.

### Thought She Would Go Crazy.

Hulls, Ill., Jan. 26.—"I couldn't sit longer than five minutes in one place. I was always tired, but could not rest or sleep. I couldn't help crying and feeling that something awful was just about to happen. I thought I would go crazy." In this way does Mrs. A. M. Fysh, of this place, tell of the illness from which she has just recovered.

Mrs. Fysh's case was remarkable. If she fell asleep she would wake up frightened, her mouth dry and her nerves all worked up. She was lonesome and melancholy even when surrounded by loving friends. Her bones ached, she had to make water four or five times every night. She was constipated. She had a voracious appetite, yet was always hungry between meals. She coughed up a great deal of white phlegm.

She heard of Dodd's Kidney Pills and after using them says:

"By the time I had taken five boxes I was a new woman. I cannot tell how much good they did for me. Before using Dodd's Kidney Pills life was such a drag to me. Now I can do my work and feel glad that I have work to do. I am completely restored."

### Love Story in Curves.

He loved her devotedly. He was also bow-legged. Both facts gave him pain at times. He passed it by with a rueful smile, when she merrily said that his affiffliction gave him such an arch look, and that, atfer all he was a pretty good sort when you got onto his curves. He bore it patiently when she referred to his walk as a parenthetical proress. But he rebelled and broke the engagement when she called her pet dog through the wicket formed by his legs.

"I may not be so overly ornament—said he, "but I emphatically object to being made useful so unseasonably early in the game!"—Baltimore American.

### To be Determined.

"What is it your men are putting up in those cans?" inquired the visitor.

"Peaches," replied the canner.

"Your best brand?"

"Can't tell yet. We haven't put the labels on them."—Philadelphia Press.

### Better Left Unsa'd.

Witless—Who is that handsome girl standing near the piano?

Mrs. Homer—That is my daughter.

Witless—Indeed! She doesn't resemble you in the least.—The Argonaut.

### Poor Chance.

"Be attentive," advised the teacher, "and you may some day be president of the United States."

"I'm afraid not," replied the smart boy; "I never had an ambition to shoot a duck or kill a bear in my life."—The Argonaut.

"I objcet to vivisection in all its forms," said an applicant to who obtained a vaccination exemption ceriticate at York, England.

Society people are seldom punctual. Even their clothes are of the latest style.

Advice is like castor oil—it is one thing to prescribe it and another to take it.

Every woman is born with a master mind—or in other words, with a mind that no man can master.

Although puglists are close fisted they would rather give than receive.

### A Queer Girl.

He—Queer girl, that Miss Van Rensellar.

She—How's that?

He—Why, she was introducing me to a girl yesterday and she said: "Miss Stuyvesant, Mr. Puddington," and, gad, she didn't tell us which was which!—Colombia Jester.

### Pointed Parrgraphs.

A stout calf maketh a full stocking.

The man who has but one suit of clothes has no redress.

The atmosphere of society is apt to make a green man turn red.

There is plenty of room at the top of the greased pole of success.

When a man's temper gets the best of him it shows him at his worst.



### The Physician Misses it.

"The trouble with you.," the doctor said, after examining the young man "seems to be that something is the matter with your heart."

"With my heart?"

"Yes. To give it a name, it is angina pectoris."

"You have to guess again doctor," said the young man. "That isn't her name at all."—Chicago Tribune.