

BLIND TAUGHT FARM

Two New York Boys Learn Art in Clinton Park.

One of Them Becomes So Expert Can Separate Lettuce and Carrot Seeds and Tell Color of Different Flowers.

New York.—The Children's Farm School in De Witt Clinton Park has taught two blind boys to raise "crops" equal in every respect to those of the children who can see. In fact, Mrs. Henry Parsons, in charge of the school, and Mr. Brady, the boys' teacher, insist that in the matter of beets and carrots the blind children's work was superior.

The subjects of the experiment are Carl and Peter, each 13 years old and strongly blind for their years. Peter is totally blind and has to be led everywhere. Carl, who can't distinguish anything more than four inches away from his eyes, has just enough vision so that he can go and fill Peter's watering pot.

Carl's sister used to bring him to the park playground. Leaving him on a bench she would run off to the swings, and the boy would sit there listening to the other children playing. A gymnasium instructor saw Carl sitting there day after day and tried to think of some occupation for him. Finally the instructor suggested that a plot in the school garden be given to the boy. Then one day Carl came bringing Peter, and Mrs. Parsons decided to try the experiment of teaching the blind gardening for pleasure if not for profit.

On June 19 they began teaching Peter and Carl to raise beets, carrots, onions, radishes, lettuce and corn, just as the other children do. A wooden fence was built around Peter's plot, along which cords were strung to serve as guides to the five rows of "crops" which were to be planted. Fred, one of the boys, and arm Peter drew his miniature furrows and dropped or sprinkled his seeds. In his first attempt to cover the seeds he knocked the rows askew, but then by placing his hand on that of his teacher while he did a row in the right way Peter mastered that art.

No grown-up farmer would like to weed with his eyes shut, but that is what both Peter and Carl had learned to do. They were taken to other children's plots, allowed to feel the different seedlings as they appeared, and so taught to distinguish the tiny plants from weeds. Hand hoes were made for them. By keeping their left hand fingers a few inches ahead of the blade they did their hoeing without cutting down the vegetables.

Several weeks ago came the time for the first harvesting on the Children's Farm, which raises two rounds of crops in a summer. As radishes, beets and beans approached maturity the excitement among the small farmers waxed so tense that the distinction between meum and tuum was frequently lost to view and the boy whose beans matured early was likely to find himself minus the beans. Even the observation plots in charge of the instructors were robbed of their prize products. But to the credit of the farm be it said that while the destruction walked around them the blind boys' crops were left undisturbed.

Peter's latest accomplishment is to distinguish bright colored flower petals one from the other apparently by some subtle difference in the texture of the blossom. That doesn't mean that he could tell whether it's a pale pink or a light blue aster or recognize any fine gradation of tint, but he knows a red petal from a yellow one.

Altogether the instructors are much pleased with the summer's experiment and are as eager as the boys to continue it next year.

AMERICAN COUNTESS HONORED



COUNTESS OF STRAFFORD

LONDON.—The countess of Strafford, who is one of the most popular of the American women that have married titled Englishmen, was honored the other day by an unexpected visit from the dowager Queen Alexandra, the first she has paid since the death of King Edward. Lady Strafford and her husband, Mr. Kennard, have taken Houghton Hall, Norfolk, from Marquis Cholmondeley and Lady Strafford was engaged in gardening and dressed in old clothes when the queen mother's motor came up the drive. The countess attempted to run in doors and change her attire, but Alexandra insisted that she continue her work in the garden.

London's bad season, with dull gray skies and chill winds, is partly compensated for by the promise of good grouse shooting. Parliament has risen in time for the sport, and that part of society which is not already "on the continent" is bound northward for the moors. Summer's England is exchanged for Scotland, which, when the grouse are plentiful and in good condition, is a good place to be, even if the weather is wet. Bright skies over the moors transform the sportsman's part of Scotland into a semblance of paradise. To be sure, the serpent is there. The guns crack and the birds are slaughtered by the thousands. But they have fulfilled their destiny. Who can do more? And mighty good eating is a well cooked grouse from the Grampian hills.

In East Haddam, about sixteen miles north from the mouth of the Connecticut river, hanging in the bell of St. Stephen's church and in use today, is a bell that was cast in Spain over 1,600 years ago. The Spanish inscription stating that the bell was cast in Spain in 515 and the name of the priest who blessed it are all very distinct. Those who have interested themselves in this valuable old relic claim the church in Spain where it originally hung was destroyed by Napoleon, this bell and many others being sent to America, where there was a good market. It is 28 inches high and 24 inches in diameter at the base.

TRIES HARD TO JOIN LOVER

Grand Rapids Girl Attempts to Enlist but Balks on Request to Remove Clothes.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Held back for a day, a story of a young girl in male attire and evidently wishing to join her sweetheart in the east has just come out of the local United States marine corps recruiting station. The "young man" in question entered the station stating "he" wished to enlist in the service to be sent to New York as soon as possible. Not understanding why the applicant should be sent so hurriedly to the training station, the officer asked the applicant to explain. Paint, but very determined, the answer was given that a close friend by the name of Brown was sent by the local recruiting officer and is now in New York very ill, and it was "his" wish to be near "his" friend as soon as possible.

The preliminary examination was hurried through and the prospective recruit shown to the next room where "he" was asked to remove "his" clothing that the remainder of the examination might be finished. After waiting for an unusual length of time for the "lad" to appear, the officer called "him." No reply being received the door was opened. The room was not occupied. The window leading to the hall was open and on the floor near by was found a lady's handkerchief, wet with tears, which had an initial "B" in the corner.

Diet of Dried Fruits.

San Francisco.—Twenty students of Stanford university have agreed to submit themselves to a diet of dried fruits for an indefinite time to assist in a government experiment. They will eat dried fruit at all their meals and the effects of the various prepared fruits on their health will be noted by Dr. Swain of the department of chemistry at the university.

MAN MAKES HIMSELF YOUNG

Extraordinary Success Claimed for Sir James Grant's Method—Vitality Amazes.

London.—Sir James Grant, the well-known Canadian physician, a recipient of many foreign honors, believes that he has discovered, not exactly the elixir of life, but at any rate a means of greatly prolonging youth back to some extent.

Sir James is himself the best advertisement of his method, for he possesses amazing vitality for his age, now nearly seventy-seven years. He is visiting London, and he looks like a man in his fifties. His secretary, a young man, says it is difficult to keep up with the work his employer does.

Two years ago Sir James created a sensation at a meeting of the British association by a paper on the extraordinary rejuvenating powers of electricity. He has since then treated himself by his own method, with results that he describes as wonderful, and he has also had much success with a number of eminent patients on the other side of the Atlantic. His treatment consists of electrical applications by means of a special battery and systematized massage.

A writer in the Pall Mall Gazette says he walked with Sir James a distance of half a mile, and could not help commenting on his vigor and energy. He asked Sir James if he wore spectacles, and Sir James replied: "Yes, I do wear spectacles. I have worn them for forty years—until such time as I began to treat myself with electricity and massage; today I do almost the whole of my reading and writing without using any spectacles at all. My hearing is as good as ever, and I feel that I have the energy of a man of forty."

"I notice that your city is full of taxicabs, but so far as I am concerned I never ride where I can walk, and, indeed, if I were challenged I would undertake to run a mile a day. I can hardly believe that I am seventy-seven, and for this happy state of affairs I thank my electrical treatment."

WHALES ESCORT A STEAMER

Big Cetaceans Accompany Vessel for Four Hours and Give Exhibition of Spouting.

Seattle, Wash.—On her way here from San Francisco, the steamer President was escorted for four hours by a school of whales, some of which swam alongside the vessel. The President's passengers declared that the sight of the whales was well worth the entire trip.

The monsters were first sighted several miles off the port bow as the vessel steamed northward. From the promenade decks the school resembled a cluster of geysers. Veering suddenly, the school dropped astern and disappeared from view.

No Mistake After All

By GERALD PRIME

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Three months after she had promised to marry Dick Hathaway, Molly Abernathy was convinced that she had made a mistake. In a little less than that time it was made clear to Dick Hathaway that it would be criminal on his part to marry Molly Abernathy.

And that was not at all because Molly had become less attractive or Dick less than the perfect upright fellow he always had been. After an almost uninterrupted companionship of considerably longer than the period of their engagement, each was as willing as ever to bear testimony to the superlatively good qualities of the other and would have been highly indignant over any suggestion to the contrary. Molly still regarded Dick as "the dearest fellow in the world," and Dick had no desire to recall his estimate of Molly as "the sweetest girl on the footstool." Nothing whatever had occurred to convict either of these thoroughly conscientious young persons of inconstancy, but—

The "but" in the case of Molly Abernathy was a young man of singularly unattractive personal equipment and a name that offered no recompense for his lack of good looks. As a life burden H. Earlington Hopper was serious enough, but it would have been crushed with the initial H expanded to its full, Hooker. Clearly there was no fault to be found with the victim of such a baptismal combination because he had contracted into decent euphoniousness.

In point of fact, there was no fault to be found with H. Earlington Hopper on any account. He was as right-minded a young man as ever hung out



"I Will Walk Home With You—"

his shingle as a lawyer, and he had scarcely captured his first client before practically all of the very nice girls in town were interested in him. The spry with which he became a social favorite in Eureka was phenomenal. He was so genial, so alive to the expectations of others, so unflinching in his efforts to establish a frank understanding with everybody, that he won recognition immediately as an A. No. 1 fellow among the men and—the women.

Ignoring his pliancy of face and awkwardness of figure and movement, the Eureka young women of all ages had become greatly interested in the sayings and doings of H. Earlington Hopper. And that, of course, included Molly Abernathy, who for some reason unexplained to her was led by this interest to doubt the co-operation of heaven in her choice of Dick as a life companion.

By a most amazing coincidence there was also a "but" in the case of Dick Hathaway. A certain young woman named Helen Ware had come to town to visit her uncle, the rector of St. Jarlath's. Before she had been at the rectory a fortnight all the young men in the parish, and a host of those who were outside of it, woke up to the fact that she was an unusually attractive young person, and Dick was one of the young men of the parish. He did not precisely understand how it was, but whenever he stood in the presence of Helen Ware he found himself wishing—well—he found himself wishing—

Both Dick and Molly were members of the mixed choir at St. Jarlath's. Dick sang tenor when he did not forget and relapse into baritone, and Molly was possessed of an excellent contralto voice, but she was an indifferent reader. That was why

SAVED BY HER INFIRMITIES

English Police Court Justice Unable to Deal Harshly With Unfortunate Offender.

Mr. Plowden succumbed to a dilemma which confronted him at Marylebone in dealing with the case of a married woman, Elizabeth Doolan, aged fifty, of Great Barlow street, Marylebone, who was charged with being incapable drunk in the street. Assistant Jailor Summers informed his worship that the woman was deaf and could not read.

Mr. Plowden—That almost puts her beyond the jurisdiction of this court. The husband entered the witness box and corroborated what had been said about his wife's condition.

Mr. Plowden—Why don't you look after your wife? The husband—I do, but she is beyond my control. How long have you been married? Thirty-seven years. Then you ought to have come control over her. Has she given way to drink very long? Many years.

Love's Crime.

George was a manly fellow, yet, surprising as it may seem, he was guilty of a grave charge, a criminal offense—theft, for had he not many times, stolen kisses from his fair sweet heart?

Maudie, one of the most lovable of girls, was equally guilty as an accessory; she received the stolen property. Each seemed to have perfect confidence in the other, however, and when sentence was pronounced by a properly qualified official, they decided to serve their time together.

They remained loyal to the end, neither making any effort to have their sentence abrogated or shortened, but during the course of their long term together several small offenses were directly chargeable to them.—J. W. B. in Puck.

Anticipated.

Margaret—Did you tell the girls at the tea that secret I confided to you and Josephine?

Katherine—No, truly I didn't. Josephine got there first.—Harpers' Bazar.

Bookkeeping.

"Is Billings a good bookkeeper?"

"He used to be. I never lend him any more."

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A friend in need is a friend we usually try to do.

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I hold it indeed to be a sure sign of a mind not poised as it ought to be if it is insensible to the pleasures of home.—Lex.

None so little enjoy life, and are such burdens to themselves, as those who have nothing to do. The active only have the true relish of life.

I hate to see a thing done by halves; if it be right, do it boldly; if it be wrong, leave it undone.—Gilpin.

It must be a lot of trouble to hunt for trouble all the time.

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