

Washing Sheep.

There has been a difference of opinion as to the advisability of washing sheep before shearing. The objections on the part of the wool grower are that washing in the water of the cold streams in this State is detrimental to the sheep, both in the act of washing and also because they must carry their fleeces too late in the season. Sheep generally lose flesh during the last month they carry their fleeces when kept to the usual time, and even no longer than is absolutely necessary to secure sufficient warmth in the water to make the operation of washing safe. A second objection is that it is a very unpleasant job for the washers and endangers their health. This objection can be obviated where large tanks can be constructed, so that the washer can stand outside and not enter the water. This is difficult to secure, and at the same time have water enough to make the washing effective. To the wool-grower, as far as the sheep, its health and thrift is concerned, there is not a single thing to be said in favor of washing, while there is much to be said in favor of not washing. It is far better for the sheep to be sheared as early as the middle of May. It is then too warm to carry such a coat, and they generally lose flesh after this time till sheared. After being turned out to grass the wool becomes more or less filthy, ewes suckling lambs lose their wool, and sheep sheared at this time if kept under shelter nights and during cold storms will do much better. The wool also starts better than when sheared after the weather is hot. The practical experience of every good shepherd is that early shearing is best as far as the sheep is concerned.

The next question is regarding the fleece. The wool grower is anxious, of course, to put it in condition to get the most money out of it, and buyers have generally demanded that it be washed. One difficulty is that wool is not bought and sold on its merits. In each class of wool the different lots bring about the same price, no matter what the condition unless decidedly bad; there is a certain price for washed fleeces and a certain deduction for unwashed, yet the unwashed may have less foreign matter in it.

It is, of course, impossible to test the matter with the same fleece, but there is hardly a doubt that a Merino fleece washed in the usual way and the sheep allowed to run for several days after washing before being sheared, will have nearly or quite as heavy fleeces as if it were sheared before any warm weather, and there is little doubt that the fiber would be better and stronger. There is little doubt that under the present methods the fleece will bring more if washed on the sheep, but that it ought to be not so plain. Having reference only to its value, the fleece certainly can be worth no more to the manufacturers after going through the spring storms on the sheep and allowed to fill with oil on the sheep after washing. If there is more extraneous matter in it before washing, it, of course, is not worth so much per pound, and the cost of freight on the difference in weight must also be deducted, but that this difference is as great as that made by buyers is denied by wool growers and they will not believe it until they see the price of wool graded according to its condition and its value.

There is a growing objection to washing sheep. Breeders of choice sheep will not do it, and if none that grow wool would, and at the same time take pains to keep their sheep clean and shear early, they would probably receive for their wool as much as they now do. If not the gain to the sheep would compensate for some deficiency in fleece by allowing early shearing. More sheep are sheared unwashed every year and the number will probably increase until washing the wool on the sheep will be unknown.—*Detroit Post and Tribune.*

When to Commence Tree-Planting.

It is the desire of the farmer, says the *Chicago Times*, "to have a large number of trees mature at once and to commence to produce fruit at the same time." Even to many farmers whose furrows are not straight and whose fences are in a dilapidated condition, the sight of an orchard with trees of different ages and not in "bee lines," would cause feelings of disgust. It is to be considered whether this demand for order and uniformity by most farmers is not a mistake and at the expense of years of enjoyment of the fruit and to the detriment of the value of the orchard.

It is not to be denied that where wealth is in abundance and leisure to devote to the details of fine orchard management, the setting of the whole orchard at once is a desirable thing to do. In such cases, it would be attended with no particular danger, and to most people the beauty of the orchard would be much enhanced. The labor of caring for such an orchard would be greatly increased at first, but in the end would be less. But for the majority of farmers who commence their operations with little means, and who have to struggle along for a number of years to make sure of their title to the soil which they cultivate, it is an impossibility to commence their orchard operations early if they insist on setting all the trees at one time. They have not the money with which to purchase the trees; the land may not be cleared, and their time is too fully occupied with gaining a bare livelihood to permit them to enter into extensive fruit management. Hence the question arises, shall such a farmer wait a number of years going without fruit entirely, or shall he set out a few trees each year in as fine order as possible, and in the end have an orchard somewhat irregular in ap-

pearance as to rows and size of trees? The average farmer will say wait, his horror of unsymmetry in the orchard overcoming all other considerations.

It is well to take into consideration that a large orchard of young, growing trees is an extremely difficult thing to manage. There are so many different theories as to their needs by those who are experts, the conditions of their successful growth are so intricate and seemingly changeable, that they become almost an "elephant" even on the hands of one who has spare time and means; and the many orchards in our vicinity, the trees of which were set out at once and in perfect order, that are now considered failures in beauty and in worth, attest not so much to the laziness of the owners (to which they are generally attributed) as to the great difficulty and almost impossibility of bringing to a successful termination such an undertaking. The orchard at the Agricultural College is considered a failure, and there is some talk of tearing it up, root and branch. The many reasons given for the failure are undoubtedly correct; there was poor soil, poor management, and insufficient means; but it exactly illustrates the point which we wish to make. If the Agricultural College fails in making a beautiful and paying orchard by starting it at one time, how can the average farmer, who certainly has no better soil and much less skill and means, hope to succeed?

The farmer should, as early as possible, put out a few fruit trees, and add to them year after year until his orchard is as large as he desires. There are many advantages resulting from this method over that of waiting and setting all at once, hardly compensated for by symmetry and beauty of the orchard even if they can be obtained. His few trees will cost but little money and labor, and if, in his ignorance, he makes mistakes in their care, the experience will not be dearly bought. He can gradually become accustomed to caring for them, and his acquired knowledge can be used to better advantage on young trees than on those that have grown under the blighting influence of his ignorance. It is well to have new trees coming into bearing at different times with large crops; it will equalize the yields between the different years, and thus better distribute the farmer's work. New varieties of fruit are constantly appearing and much improvement is being made, which can be taken advantage of in this way. It is the experience of many that fruit trees do not necessarily do best when associated with others, and many examples of remarkable growth and yields are given of solitary trees by the side of some road or stream. With a little precaution in furnishing shelter from the fiercest winds, a few trees standing alone with plenty of room may do better than if they were in a large orchard. Their roots and branches will have no obstacle in the way of near neighbors, and the sun will have a better chance to do his part. There is no particular advantage in trees growing in an orchard, although mutual protection is afforded; but it is often the case that they cause mutual injury. A few trees will generally be better tended than an orchard of many trees, for they require less time, and the crop of fruit being small at the best, the farmer's home supply depends upon the closest attention, while a large orchard is almost sure of furnishing enough fruit for home consumption even if much neglected.—*Lansing Republican.*

Licking an Elder.

One summer in the years ago while a camp-meeting was in progress in Eaton County there arrived on the grounds a bull named Miller, who had made a vow to lick Elder Johnson and break up the whole business. The Elder heard the news with calm composure, and as soon as at liberty, he hunted up a worldly friend of his own and asked:

"Friend Smith, didn't you used to fight in your younger days?"

"Ah! Elder, I have had many a turn with the boys."

"And what is the effect of a sudden blow between the eyes?"

"It astonishes and humbles."

"Is there any danger of killing a man by such a blow?"

"Never knew a case of it."

The Elder went his way with a serene smile on his face. Miller had his coat off and was hunting for him, and they met face to face as they turned a wagon. Miller started to crack his heels and crow, but he never finished. The Elder took him one square between the lookers without stopping his pace, and it took twelve rowdies, three dippers of water and two quarts of whisky to revive the patient and get him off the grounds. One day, a year afterwards, he met the Elder and seriously asked:

"Elder, some of the boys say I was kicked by a horse, and others stick to it that I was struck by lightning, but I've always had a suspicion that you hit me with a provision stand. How was it, anyhow?"—*Detroit Free Press.*

—Instructor in Latin: "Miss B., of what was Ceres the goddess?"

Miss B.: "She was the goddess of marriage."

Instructor: "Oh, no; of agriculture."

Miss B., (looking perplexed): "Why, I'm sure my book says she was the goddess of husbandry."—*Our Continent.*

—Returns from India state that the number of persons killed there by wild beasts and snakes has increased from 19,273 in 1876 to 21,900 in 1880. In Bengal alone, during the latter year, 359 persons were killed by tigers.

—Put four or five lima beans in a pot and cover them an inch deep. It is real fun to see them come up. Take care of the plants, and set them out without disturbing the roots.—*St. Louis Globe.*

FACTS AND FIGURES.

—There are in Louisiana, out of a population of 919,916, illiterates to the number of 318,380. Of these 259,429 are colored persons.—*N. O. Picayune.*

—There was more oleomargarine than butter exported from the United States in 1881, the figures standing at 26,000,000 to 21,000,000 of pounds respectively.

—Two Californians in partnership have on their various ranches 95,000 head of cattle and 110,000 head of sheep. To take care of these flocks 500 men are now employed.

—The highest price ever paid for a piece of land in New York, is supposed to have been the \$168,000 which J. H. Glover has just paid for a lot 30 by 16, with building thereon, at the southwest corner of Wall and Broad streets.

—Up to 1876, when the figures were brought into shape, it was found that the Erie Canal had paid the whole cost of construction, working expenses and repairs, beside putting \$63,338,348 into the trousers pocket of the State of New York.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—The returns of the census taken in Italy at the close of 1881 show the population of the Kingdom to be 28,452,000, an increase during the decade of 1,650,846. The number of Italians living in other countries is estimated at 800,000. The only city in the Kingdom whose population has decreased during the last ten years is Florence.

—A recent German work gives the following return of the population of the world, counting by millions: Europe, 315,000,000; Asia, 834,000,000; Africa, 205,000,000; America, 95,000,000; Australia and Polynesia, 5,000,000; Polar regions, under 1,000,000. Total, 1,445,000,000—being an increase of over 16,000,000 upon the last census.

—Chicago is the greatest lumber market in the world. The single item of sawed lumber received there in 1881 would lay an inch flooring fourteen feet wide round the earth at the equator. The amount of lumber manufactured in the three States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota during 1881 would lay such a floor fifteen feet wide.—*N. Y. World.*

—The first conveyance of real estate in New York by John Jacob Astor is dated August 14, 1789, being two lots in the Bowery Lane, for £250. The next was for a lot in Little Dock street (now Water street), for £850.—Aaron Burr, from the time he moved to this city, in 1783, until his ruin, twenty-four years later, purchased twenty-four lots of real-estate, and made eighty sales.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

—Profuse spitting is injurious in several ways. The saliva is poured into the mouth to do a specific work, and then passes into the stomach to be absorbed. If the saliva is constantly ejected from the mouth, the system is drained of what it was not intended to lose. And the mouth, in that case, becomes an organ of excretion, thus relieving the kidneys in part of their office.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

WIT AND WISDOM.

—When a clergyman puts the subject for a sermon in his hat, does it become a text tile fabric?

—The idle man travels so slowly that even poverty easily overtakes him at the first turn of the road.

—We impatiently whip a horse for shying at a shadow, and yet we are constantly doing the same thing ourselves.

—The following "notis" is posted up in an East Texas saw-mill: "Doant Munky with the buz saw when in moshun."—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

—"Is this angel's food?" asked a young lady at a party of a gentleman who brought her some delicate cake. "It is now," was the gallant response.

—A young lady in a Boston office is so particular about her personal appearance that she always takes a peep in the mirror before answering a call at the telephone.—*Somerville Journal.*

—"Why will not hens lay?" asks an agricultural writer, anxiously. We don't know eggsactly; perhaps because they always want to set; hens the trouble.—*Hermantown Telegraph.*

—"I can't get up early," said a poor victim to his doctor. "Oh, yes, you can," was the reply. "If you will only follow my advice. What is your hour of rising?" "Nine o'clock." "Well, get up half an hour later every day, and in the course of a month you will find yourself up at four in the morning."

—Determined beforehand, we gravely pretend to seek the advice and the thoughts of a friend.

We blush for his want of both judgment and sense.

But should he fall in with and flatter our plan.

Why, really, we think him a sensible man.

"Sister told me to come in and talk to you 'till she found her hair," said a six-year-old girl to her big sister's beau.

"Do you like to have me talk to you?" Sister says you sing like a screech-owl.

What is a screech-owl? Won't you sing for me? Sister says you don't know beans; I know beans—a whole bag full.

Sister says—why, you ain't going, are you? Oh my, won't sister be mad though!"—*Detroit Post.*

—There is said to be only one auto-graph of Velasquez, the great Spanish painter, in private hands.—*Ex.* This intelligence will be apt to cause a general wave of gloom and depression to pass over this country. Thousands of Americans have been buoyed up with the happy and cheering belief that hundreds of old Velasquez's autographs were in private hands. This promises to be a year of disappointments.—*Bur-lington Hawkeye.*

Marked Cards.

There are many ways of cheating at poker. One is by marked cards. One way of marking cards is on the backs at the time of their manufacture. Here are seventeen different styles of marked cards which I sell all over the United States. To an ordinary observer the backs are of an intricate and symmetrical pattern; but I can tell at a glance every card in any one of the seventeen packs."

"How can one remember so many marks?"

"It is very simple when you once learn. I will guarantee to teach any intelligent person to read any one of these marked packs in two hours. It only needs seventeen marks to a pack. Four marks will expose the four suits, and thirteen marks will expose the cards in each suit. Although the marks are so plain that they can be read as far as you can see a card, they are so covered up in the scroll work and patterns that you would not notice them unless they were pointed out to you. Sometimes the marks are in the fold of a flag; sometimes in the turn of an ornamental scroll. Here is a pack that is apparently ornamented on the back with a marble pattern. By looking at the upper left-hand corner you can plainly see a heart, spade, club or diamond carelessly thrown into the pattern. All the high cards are denoted by the different positions of a little scoop. This a gentle reminder of the way the boys get scooped by them. All the low cards are marked with various positions of a little device that looks like the butt of a pistol. A casual observer might think the backs are all alike on each card in the pack. Yet, in fact, each card is printed from a separately engraved back. These cards are sold at about \$1.50 a pack."

"But do not these printed marks soon become known among gamblers?"

"Yes. Then there is a way of marking cards specially for one pack, which costs \$7 or \$8. This is done to cheat gamblers. I knew a man who went into a gambling game up town, and played and lost several nights at poker. Then he put private marks on an ordinary pack of playing cards, staked the darky who furnished the cards to the players to put in his pack, and he went out of the game \$1,000 winner that night."

"What is the advantage of marked cards in poker?"

"You can tell every man's hand as it is dealt before he knows it himself. If he gets a low hand you can often bluff him out of his stake at the start. If he gets a high hand you know when to keep out. But when your turn comes to deal you can give each player whatever cards you please. Watch me deal this pack. I will give you, while you are watching me, either the second or third card from the top without detection. If I see a good card on top I slip it down and keep it for myself, and deal you the next one. Or I can slip that down, too, if I choose, so that your chance of getting a good hand is very slim."

"Suppose some one else furnishes cards that are not marked. Have you any way of marking them?"

"Several. Here is a little tool called a poker ring. It is apparently an ordinary diamond ring. Look at it. You see nothing peculiar about it. Pass your finger over the part that is inside my hand. You will feel a little sharp steel point. Suppose you take out a fresh pack of cards which I have never seen. In ten minutes' play I will have all the good cards marked with my little prick-er. Every time an ace or a king comes in my hand I will prick a little hole in the corner. That throws up a small burr. When I deal the cards I can tell with my eyes shut when I come to one of these pricked cards. You may bet your life I will never deal one of them to you. Sometimes, to avoid suspicion, I will prick four deuces or fours and deal you three aces. Then I make you feel sorry. The slight embossing that is done by the prick-er will not be noticed. The old-fashioned way of bending corners to mark cards is out of use, as bungling and easily detected.—*N. Y. Sun Interview.*

A Cincinnati Hermit.

Cincinnati has a strange hermit in Edward Holroyd. He was once a partner in a large and successful dry-goods house, and at that time was public spirited, jovial and widely known. Twenty years ago he retired suddenly from business, secluded himself in a very handsome suburban residence, and has never since been out of the premises. For months no human being sees him, his orders to the family who live in the house being sent from his room in writing, and his food being passed in through a ricket. The building is going to ruin through neglect, and the grounds are untended, but neither through stinginess nor lack of means, as his property has appreciated to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in value, and he frequently gives away money in charity. He takes the daily newspapers, and seems to keep informed as to what is going on in the world, but will have nothing to do with it, and lately refused to see one of his former business partners. Many of his old associates believed he was dead, so completely had he dropped out of notice, when a description in the *Enquirer* of his manner of existence called their attention to him. He is now eighty. The cause of his seclusion was his wife, with whom he quarrelled, and who obtained a divorce, compelling him to provide for her a separate maintenance. This soured him, and he vowed to be done with human beings.

—The north pole has never done us any harm, why not let it alone?—*Chicago Tribune.*

PERRY DAVIS' Pain-Killer

A SAFE AND SURE REMEDY FOR

Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Cramps, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Dysentery.

Sprains AND Bruises, Burns AND Scalds, Toothache AND Headache.



PAIN-KILLER is the well-tried and trusted friend of all who want a sure and safe medicine which can be freely used internally or externally, without fear of harm and with certainty of relief. Its price brings it within the range of all, and it will annually save many times its cost in doctor bills. Price, 25 cents, 50 cents, and \$1.00 per bottle. Directions accompany each bottle.

FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Dawn of a New Era.

Ditson & Co. make a special feature of Sunday School Song Books, and can safely commend the three new ones which they publish this season. Their compilers are practical workers in the Sunday School, and with previous publications have been extremely successful. The new books are:

THE BEACON LIGHT.

By J. H. TENNEY and E. A. HOFFMAN.

A collection of new hymns and tunes, carefully selected from a large quantity of manuscripts, of which four out of every five were rejected, only the very best being chosen. Price, 30 cents.

LIGHT AND LIFE.

By R. M. MCINTOSH.

This new book is quite comprehensive, providing in a small space ample material for two years, including a great variety of new hymns, as well as some older ones which are always in request. Price, 45 cents.

BANNER OF VICTORY.

By A. J. ABBEY and M. J. MUNGER.

This is the latest of the three new books, and is sure to meet with good success. It contains all the variety and freshness which could well be desired, and many beautiful pieces especially adapted for prayer and praise meetings. Price, 35 cents.

WILBOR'S COMPOUND OF PURE COD LIVER OIL AND LIME.

To the Consumptive.—Wilbor's Compound of Pure Cod Liver Oil and Lime, without possessing the very nauseating flavor of the article as heretofore used, is endorsed by the Phosphate of Lime with a healing property which renders the oil doubly efficacious. Remarkable testimonials of its efficacy can be shown. Sold by A. B. WILBOR, Chemist, Boston, and all druggists.

KIDNEY-WORT FOR THE PERMANENT CURE OF CONSTIPATION.

No other disease is so prevalent in this country as Constipation, and no remedy has ever equalled the celebrated Kidney-Wort as a cure. Whatever the cause, however obstinate the case, this remedy will overcome it. THIS distressing complaint is very apt to be complicated with constipation. Kidney-Wort strengthens the weakened parts and quickly cures all kinds of Piles even when physicians and medicines have before failed. If you have either of these troubles, PRICE 50c. USE Druggists Sell

KIDNEY-WORT

CANCER INSTITUTE.

Established, 1877, Incorporated, 1880. For the Cure of Cancer, Tumors, Ulcers, Scrofula and SKIN DISEASES, without the use of knife or loss of blood, and little pain. INFORMATION, CIRCULARS AND REFERENCES, address H. F. L. FORD, Aurora, Kane Co., Ill.

MAKE HENS LAY

An English Veterinary Surgeon and Chemist, now traveling in this country, says that most of the Hens and Cattle Powders sold here are worthless trash. He says that Sheridan's Condition Powders are absolutely pure and immensely valuable. Nothing on earth will make hens lay like Sheridan's Condition Powders. Dose, one teaspoonful to one pint food. Sold everywhere, or sent by mail for eight letter stamps. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass., formerly Bangor, Me. FARMERS' PURGATIVE PILLS make new rich blood.

WELL AUGERS, ROCK DRILLS

AND THE BEST MACHINERY IN THE WORLD FOR BORING AND DRILLING WELLS by Horse or Steam Power! For BOOK FREE. Address LOOMIS & NYMAN, TIFFIN, OHIO

BANK & JESSE JAMES

Complete Life of these Bold Highway-men. Also of the Younger Brothers, and other full outlaws of the border. Fully illustrated. Over 50 pages. Bound in Gilt covers. Durable. Terms liberal. AGENTS WANTED. FORBEE & McMAKIN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

\$47 A MONTH and board in your county. Men or Ladies. Pleasant Business. Address P. W. ZINSER & Co., Box 24, Chicago, Ill.

\$30 Per Week can be made in any locality. Complete Life of these Bold Highway-men. Also of the Younger Brothers, and other full outlaws of the border. Fully illustrated. Over 50 pages. Bound in Gilt covers. Durable. Terms liberal. AGENTS WANTED. FORBEE & McMAKIN, Cincinnati, Ohio.

\$47 A MONTH and board in your county. Men or Ladies. Pleasant Business. Address P. W. ZINSER & Co., Box 24, Chicago, Ill.

\$30 Per Week can be made in any locality. Complete Life of these Bold Highway-men. Also of the Younger Brothers, and other full outlaws of the border. Fully illustrated. Over 50 pages. Bound in Gilt covers. Durable. Terms liberal. AGENTS WANTED. FORBEE & McMAKIN, Cincinnati, Ohio.