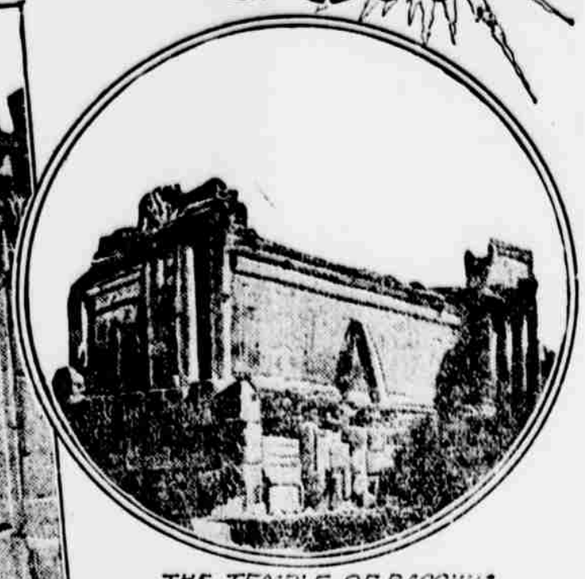
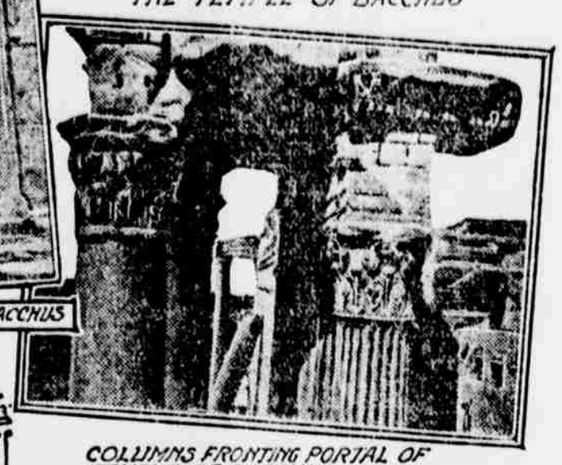
The FAMOUS CITY of the SUN

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S TABLET

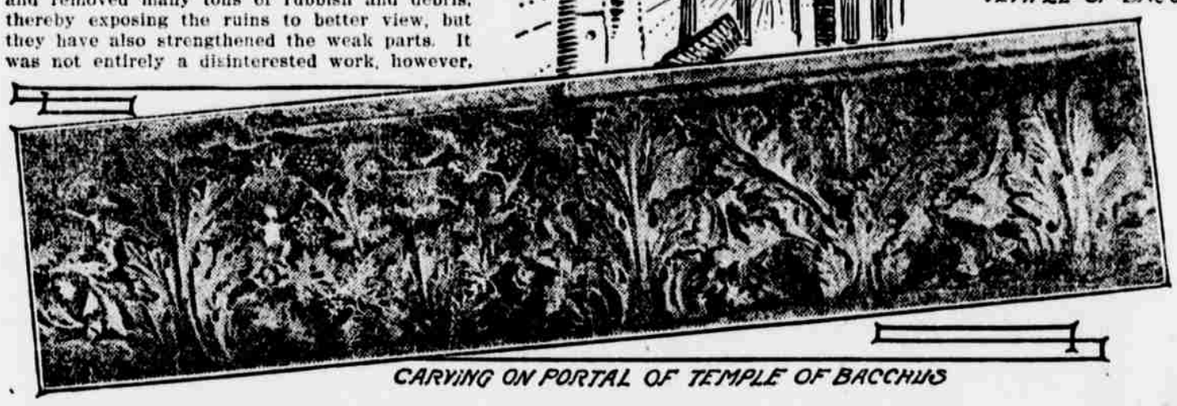
INTERIOR OF TEMPLE OF BACCHUS



THE TEMPLE OF BACCHUS



COLUMNS FRONTING PORTAL OF TEMPLE OF BACCHUS



CARVING ON PORTAL OF TEMPLE OF BACCHUS

AMONG the many ruins to be found in the east, those of Baalbek, in Syria, are second to none in interest. During the last four years German archaeologists have been busy excavating there, and every visitor to the ruins owes them a debt of gratitude. They have not only dug down and removed many tons of rubbish and debris, thereby exposing the ruins to better view, but they have also strengthened the weak parts. It was not entirely a disinterested work, however, for the Berlin museums now possess many of the finest examples of the carvings found there.

Baalbek is the name of a ruined city of ancient Coela-Syria, signifying the "city of Baal," the sun god. The name was converted by the Greeks, during the Seleucidian dynasty, into its Greek equivalent, Heliopolis. It is situated in latitude 34 degrees, 1 minute north, longitude 36 degrees, 11 minutes east, in the plain of Buka's, at the northern extremity of a low range of bleak hills, about one mile from the base of Antilibanon, in a well watered and delightful locality, a little more than 40 miles northwest of Damascus. It was once the most magnificent of Syrian cities, full of palaces, fountains and beautiful monuments.

These ruins are known as the Acropolis and are unique for their massiveness and for the great amount of both bold and delicate carving with which they are adorned. There is, indeed, so much carving and such variety as to make one's first visit bewildering. The temples being built on a flat plain, it was important to raise them above the surrounding level to render them more imposing, and to that end there are vast substructures and vaults and passages supporting the shrines. The most imposing was that of the great Temple of the Sun, which was a rectangular building 290 feet by 160, having its roof supported by a peristyle of 54 Corinthian columns, 19 at each side and 10 at each end. Of these six are still standing. The circumference of these columns is about 22 feet, and the length of the shaft about 58 feet; with pedestal, capital and entablature they measure about 80 feet in height. The great Temple of the Sun occupied a platform on the Acropolis about 1,000 feet by 450 feet. The main entrance of the temple was on the east. Here a wide flight of steps led up to a portico 19 feet above the gardens and orchards that now surround the ruins. An inscription on the great portico states that the temple was erected to the "Great Gods" of Heliopolis by Antoninus.

Beyond the portico is a hexogonal court through which a large gateway opens into the great square, at the west end of which is the temple on a lofty stylobate. Except the columns mentioned, little of the great temple or of the buildings in front of it is left standing, but the ground is covered with their ruins. The vast size of the stones used in the substructures of the great platform is remarkable, some of them being over 60 feet long and 12 feet thick.

South from the great temple is a smaller one known as the Temple of Jupiter. It is smaller in form, having its peristyle and the walls of its cells still mostly standing. Its dimensions are 227 feet in length by 117 feet in breadth, with 15 columns at the sides and 8 at each end. Both temples as well as the surrounding structures were built of limestone, in a richly decorated, somewhat fantastic Corinthian style. Besides these there stands at a distance of 300 yards from the others a circular building supported on six granite columns built in mixed Ionic and Corinthian style.

Nearby also are the remains of the Temple of Bacchus, famed for its magnificent carvings. Here are enormous slabs of stone elaborately carved with the heads of emperors and deities and interwoven with floral designs, the whole forming a unique ceiling. The portal is the gem of the entire edifice. The door posts are beautifully carved with figures of Bacchus, fawns, cupids, satyrs, and bacchantes, woven around which are grape vines and clusters of fruit, poppies and ears of wheat, all of which are symbolical of the revelling which the name of the temple suggests.

This great doorway stands 43 feet high and 21½ feet wide, while the carving of the posts just mentioned covers a space about six feet wide. On both sides of this door stand graceful fluted columns forming the prostyle or portico, while the plain ones of the peristyle, which stands between them, seem to reflect their beauty.

The mammoth stones contained in the inclosing wall of the Acropolis have been the marvel of engineers for ages. The lowest courses are of stones of moderate dimensions, but at a height of 20 feet above the ground on the west wall is a row of three enormous stones, the shortest being 63 feet and the longest 65 feet in length, and each being about 13 feet high and 10 feet thick. They are the largest building blocks ever known to have been used by man. A still larger stone lies in the ancient quarry nearby, never having been detached from the rock beneath. This one is 70 feet long by 14 feet by 13 feet.

At an early period the Arabs converted the temples into the fortresses, and to this end, to a certain extent, removed them. Their work, however, has now been removed by the Germans.

The early history of Baalbek is involved in darkness, but it is certain that from the most distant times it had been a chief seat of sun-worship, as its name implies. Augustus made it a Roman colony and placed there a garrison. Baalbek had an oracle held in such high esteem that in the second century A. D. it was consulted by the Emperor Trajan prior to his entrance on his second Parthian campaign. Antoninus Pius (A. D. 138-161) built the great temple which the legend current among the modern inhabitants counts a work of Solomon. The platform and substructures, however, are of a much earlier date. This temple is said to have contained a golden statue of Apollo, or of Zeus, which on certain annual festivals the chief citizens of Heliopolis bore about on their shoulders. When Christianity, under Constantine, became the dominant religion, the temple became a Christian church. In the wars that followed the taking of the city by the Arabs, who sacked it in A. D. 748, the temple was turned into a fortress. The city was completely pillaged by Timur in A. D. 1400. Both city and temple continued to fall more and more into decay under the misery and misrule to which Syria has been subject ever since. Many of the magnificent pillars were overturned by the pashas of Damascus merely for the sake of the iron with which the stones were bound together. What the Arabs, Tartars and Turks had spared was destroyed by a terrible earthquake in 1759. Baalbek is now an insignificant village with a population of about 2,000, more than half of whom are Christians.

THINGS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

Thousands of Changes Can Be Rung on Eight

Bells---Horses In Race.

How many people realize the number of ways in which it is possible for some of the commonest every-day events of life to happen? London Answers asks.

As you walk through the streets of your town, for example, and hear the chimes of your parish church bells, has it ever occurred to you to think out how many "changes" can be rung with a "peal" of eight bells? The answer is 40,320, a number which seems almost incredible, but none the less is true.

Ten horses run in a race. The number of ways in which the first, second and third places can be filled is 720, while the number of ways in which all ten horses can pass the winning post is the enormous number 3,627,800.

A town council is composed of twenty-five councillors and ten aldermen. From it it is possible to form 6,375,600 different committees, each composed of five councillors and three aldermen. Eight people could arrange themselves about a round table in 5,040 different ways, and if six persons receive a first-class railway carriage having six seats they could choose from among 700 different ways of seating themselves.

A little girl has ten different beads to make into a necklace. She could do it 181,290 times and get a different necklace each time.

If we wish to make a selection of six books out of an available twelve, we have the choice of 924 ways in which to do it, while if we have the following coins—halfpenny, penny, sixpenny piece, shilling, florin, and half crown—we can arrange them in a straight line in 720 different ways. Try it!

Finally, it would take 5,000 years for a man earning £200 a year to earn £1,000,000, while if a person invested £1 at 5 per cent. compound interest he would become a millionaire—could he live so long—in 283 years.

Nothing Like That These Days.

"How did Skimmels make his money?"

"He was one of those old-fashioned dairymen who left you in doubt whether water had been put in the milk or milk had been spilled in the water."—Washington Star.

Awful.

Clarice—It must be awful to be married to a man you cannot love!

Gaby—I should think so! It is so hard getting a divorce from those goody-goody chaps.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

Disqualified.

"My wife thinks I'm one man in a million," boasted Tigg.

"Is that so?" said Wigg, sadly. "I don't believe my wife thinks I'm a man at all."

A Serious Loss.

"Diggs tells me he takes nearly all the leading newspapers," said the visitor.

"So he does," sighed the exchange editor. "He takes them from me."

KIND OF COWS TO BUY

Animals Not Adapted to Dairying Cause Failures.

To Obtain Best Results It Is Essential That Strict Dairy Type Be Kept —Beef Value of Secondary Importance.

(By E. A. MARKHAM, Idaho Experiment Station.)

It is not difficult to find men, even in the most prosperous dairy communities, who do not believe that dairying pays. They have tried it and failed. Some have purchased good stock, but poor management or false economy in housing or feeding prevented them from getting the results they expected, but by far the largest number of these failures are due to the use of animals that are not adapted to dairying.

Those who purchase a few cows when the price of butter fat is high and sell them off when the price goes down naturally have a rather poor opinion of the dairy business. To obtain the best results it is essential that the animals purchased for the dairy should be of the strict dairy type, and be made a permanent part of the farm live stock. Those who purchase cows with the intention of milking them but a short time and then selling them off when the price of butter-fat drops or when the animal goes dry naturally look more for beef producers rather than milk producers. It is impossible to build up a good dairy herd by this method.

There Is Money in Butter Making.

Dual-purpose animals may be used in some localities to good advantage, but to get the best results one of the special dairy breeds should be used. This does not mean that only thoroughbred animals should be used, but animals that are bred for milk production. A good dairy cow should produce enough butter-fat in her best days that the value of the beef may be of secondary importance, if not entirely ignored.

A person purchasing an implement considers first how much service he can get out of it and not its value as scrap iron when worn out. Those who purchase a dairy cow should consider how much butter-fat she will produce and not the value of her hide and carcass.

PLACE FOR HENS TO SCRATCH

Leaves Make Excellent Material If Gathered When Perfectly Dry— Oat Straw Is Cheap.

There are a number of different materials which furnish an excellent place for the hens to scratch in, says a writer in the Poultry Journal. Leaves are probably the stuff most used by the small poultrymen. These are good if gathered when perfectly dry. They must be put into the pens every few days, because the poultry will break them into dust by their continual scratching. I find oat straw about as cheap in the long run, because it lasts quite a while and furnishes some feed if fed before threshing.

Some of my neighbors have tried feeding buckwheat as a scratching material and a feed combined. Buckwheat is too fattening and should be used only occasionally. Corn husks make an excellent scratching material. Shredded or cut corn fodder does very well if there is nothing else on hand. I do not like any form of meadow grass or swale for scratching material because it mats down too much when cut and not enough when not cut.

Salting Cabbages.

For several years I have raised cabbages and found it advantageous, after setting out the plant, to drop a little salt on the heart of the cabbage, says a writer in the Fruit Grower. When the salt is dissolved by rain, or some other agent, it should be renewed, and the process continued until all danger from cabbage worms is past.

A cabbage treated in this way will grow much larger, and when the head is cut open it will not be found honeycombed with wormholes.

Necessity for Testing Seed.

Good seed corn is the key to getting good stands of corn. A good stand of corn is necessary to secure good yields. Owing to the wet fall of 1911 there is now much doubtful seed corn in the country.

One cannot afford to plant corn any years, much less this year, without testing. The single-ear method of testing seed corn is the only practical method.

HOED CROPS IN THE ORCHARD

Practice Results In Severe Damage to Annual Plantings—How to Reckon the Distance.

One of the most prolific causes of loss of nursery stock after transplanting, or for several years thereafter is this common practice of too close growing of hoed crops. This practice, says Rural Life, results in severe damages to the annual plantings. The loss amounts possibly to 10 per cent. The too common practice is to allow no more space between the tree row and the inter-crop rows than between two inter-crop rows, be the inter-crops cabbage, beans, potatoes or corn. Such distances vary from 30 inches to 3½ feet, according to crop used or planted.

In the first place, the distance should be reckoned from the expanded top of the tree, rather than from the trunk at base. The outside of top is a limiting factor, since the allowance should be made for leaning of the same, or possibly all of the tree on the leeward side.

The nearest row to the tree row should be far enough from the row to permit the horse in cultivating to pass freely and without letting harness catch into or come in contact with branches of tree. It will surprise those who have never given the subject much thought, the difference that the lean or incline of a tree makes, when it deviates from a plumb or to a vertical line. In the writer's opinion the space between tree row and the nearest winter-crop row should not be less than four feet the year trees are planted, if two years old, or branched trees are used, and farther each succeeding year.

PAPER POT IS INEXPENSIVE

Little Device Easily Made and Successfully Serves Many Purposes in Starting Seeds.

Here is a little device, so inexpensive and so easily made, and which successfully serves so many purposes in starting seeds and plants, that every one should avail himself of its help.

Take a piece of stiff paper (not necessarily cardboard) and on it draw two circles, one within the other; the outer circle should be six inches radius, and the inner one three. Cut out the portion of paper inside the smaller circle, and trim to the line of the outer circle, thus having a shape like a doughnut. Cut this round piece of paper into three equal arcs (or it may be halved for large plants). Use one of these parts as a pattern, and cut as many like it as you want.

Paper Pot at Two Stages.

On one end of the arc cut into the outer end, three-quarters of an inch from the end, a slit half way across the paper; on the other end cut the same from the inner edge. Then bend the strip and lock the slits together to hold each other as fastenings to the pot.

The little paper pot will be bottomless and will have set in sand or soil, whichever is to be used as ground to grow the things in, and filled as any pot, putting the seed, cutting or plant it in the usual way.

The soil into which the pot is plunged must, of course, be kept moist. When the plant is ready to be shifted to a larger, or transplanted, the paper can be torn off, leaving the ball of soil undisturbed, and the plant will feel no shock of removal.

Many plants cannot stand transplanting by the usual way, and for such these little paper pots are found to be invaluable. Give them a trial.—H. W. M.

POULTRY NOTES

A sick hen is never a paying investment.

Dry coops are cheaper than sick chicks.

For the egg eating habit try darkening the nests.

Little and often is a good feeding rule for chicks.

Poultry success depends more on condition than on breed.

Crossing breeds is a step backward in the chicken business.

If chickens are worth raising at all they are worth raising well.

It is better to cut a chicken's head off than to let him eat it off.

Sell, kill or confine all male birds when the hatching season is over.

Overheating is responsible for more incubator troubles than underheating.

Disinfecting the incubator between hatches is a precaution worth taking.

Feed the little chicks what they need, not what you happen to have on hand.

Don't forget to have a row of sunflowers; the seeds are excellent for poultry.

Remember that water glass solution will keep this summer's eggs until they double in price.

A half pint of carbonic acid in two gallons of water makes a good disinfectant for any purpose.

Removing the cause of disease is more satisfactory all around than doctoring the chicken afterward.