

THE ODD CORNER

Two Men of To Day.

Jim Jones had a habit of laughing—
Whenever he spoke he would smile—
He never would recognize trouble;
He claimed that it wasn't worth while;
He paid no attention to trifles,
'Twas happy-go-lucky with Jim;
He always seemed short as to money,
But life seemed worth living to him.

John Smith had a habit of scowling—
He grumbled whenever he spoke—
He did everything with precision
And nothing to him was a joke;
He gave all his time to his business;
He worried and fussed every day;
He's rich, but his friends often wondered
If Smith ever made living pay.
—Cleveland Leader.

Sharks and War.

The fishermen of the northern part of the Adriatic sea are alarmed at the number and size of the sharks that have been caught there since June. Three were taken in Istria within a few days, and a very large one was caught lately in Quarnero.

The Adriatic fishermen declare that these sharks are fish that have been driven out of the Yellow sea and the Siberian waters by the many frightful submarine mine explosions. They allege that since the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war the number of sharks in the Mediterranean sea has increased steadily.

It has been known for some time that the Suez canal has been the means of bringing a great many big sharks into the Mediterranean every year. The shark is a fish which will follow a ship for days and weeks, once he finds that a steady supply of offal is thrown overboard. The amount cast into the sea daily from a big passenger steamship is so great that it would suffice for half a dozen sharks, greedy as these brutes are. Therefore, it is not strange that practically every liner is dogged all the way from Asiatic waters by big sharks.

The Suez canal does not stop them, and they stay with the ship till it leaves the Straits of Gibraltar. By that time most of them have found the great schools of tunny and other fish that fill the Mediterranean, and they desert the ship and stay thereafter in the great interior ocean, to the vast injury of the fishermen.

Safeguarding the Paper Currency.

To the average man the paper used by Uncle Sam for currency outranks all others in value and attractiveness. This paper, used variously for money, bonds, checks, internal revenue stamps, etc., is made in Pittsfield, Mass., in one of the most perfect paper manufacturing plants in the world. In the eyes of the government it is the perfection of its manufacture that gives value to what is known as "money paper," and there is, contrary to the general impression, no secret in either the process or formula.

Reliance against imitation is placed on the skill required, and on the fact that the machinery essential to production is costly, massive and not easily capable of concealment. These, with the aids of the well-known silk fibers and the statutory provisions against its unauthorized manufacture and possession, offer the chief protection against counterfeiting; and it is acknowledged by the secret service that the government paper itself is a greater safeguard to the treasury than the intricacies of design and engraving.

Only in money paper are silk threads used, but while the sheet is still soft the government watermark is pressed into the other papers. This watermark is the simple monogram, "U. S. T. D." for check paper, "U. S. P. D." for postage stamps, and "U. S. I. R." for revenue paper.

Medicines of Former Generations.

A sure cure for the ague, according to an old-time specific, was to rub a live spider in butter and then eat it. The late Vincent Stuckley Lane, who

died recently in England after spending much of his life in the collection of folk-lore, gives many other instances of the patent medicines of former generations. To rub a dried mole to powder and to swallow as much of it as would lie on a shilling for nine days in succession was another cure for ague. A hare's foot carried on the person prevented colic; eels applied to the ears were a specific against deafness; and epilepsy yielded to a gentle treatment of toadstools gathered just as they were forcing their way through the ground and swallowed in claret at midnight. There were many ways of curing fits, but the simplest plan was to go into a church at midnight and walk three times round the communion table. A snake's skin worn round the temples was good for headache, but if that failed the sufferer might try moss grown on a human skull, then powdered and taken as snuff.

Veteran's Home His Office.

The tax collector at Machias, Maine, is a civil war veteran and suffers today from wounds received in the service. His sufferings have grown worse of late and have prompted him to post the following notice in the postoffice: "On account of shot and shell your tax collector's office, until further notice, will be at his residence in Elm street. G. H. Kenniston, Collector."

Soaked Innocent Visitor.

A newly married Nashua, N. H., couple were annoyed by Halloween prank players and made several unsuccessful efforts to catch the boys and girls. Finally there came a long ring and a pail of water was poured from a chamber window over the front door, which just soaked the new suit of one of the bride's dearest lady friends, who had come to call.

What a Hen Can Learn.

When a boy I had a fat, lively hen so educated that at my bidding she would lie on her back and slide head first down an inclined plane two or three feet in length without the slightest effort to turn upright or stop herself; and at the bottom she would remain just as she landed until I touched her or spoke to her—unless interfered with by some other person or animal. Incredible as this may seem, it is a trick easily taught any gentle, affectionate hen.

Woman Owns County Buildings.

Mrs. Emeline H. Cummings of Paris, Maine, is probably the only person, as far as we know, in the world, who ever owned a full set of county buildings. The stone jail she sold a few years ago for a library, but the remainder of the official plant is now hers—courthouse, jailer's house and office buildings, with big brick vaults attached.

Letters Ten Years Old.

Mrs. G. L. Reagan of Bloomsburg, Pa., has just received a letter mailed to her ten years ago from Altoona. It was found in a pile of foreign letters on the counter of the Bloomsburg post-office and had evidently been placed there by some person who had it in his possession ten years. It had been opened and was marked "opened by mistake."

Partridges Tame in Maine.

Mrs. J. B. Cole of Prospect Harbor, Maine, was sitting on her piazza when she was surprised by a partridge which alighted first on the rail and finally fluttered to the floor near where she was sitting. A few days afterward the lady living in the next house found one with her hens when she went to feed them at night.

National Hymns.

The national airs of great countries are short, while those of little countries are long. "God Save the King" is 14 bars, the Russian hymn is 16 bars, and "Hail Columbia!" has 28 bars, and that of Uruguay 70, Chile 46, and so on. San Marino has the longest national hymn, except that of China.



The Growing of Plums.

Some discouraged horticulturist in Missouri asks whether it is better to attempt to grow our own plums or to pay the people of California to grow them for us, we to pay the freight. We believe that every orchardist east of the Rockies will prefer to grow his own plums if for no other reason than that he may have them of high quality and full of flavor. We can never get highly flavored fruit if it is grown thousands of miles from the place where it is to be consumed. In almost all such cases it is necessary to pick and pack the fruit while it is yet hard and before it has matured enough to have flavor. This accounts for the California fruit on the eastern market that is such a disappointment to the buyers, being almost without flavor.

The growing of plums is not a difficult matter. As it is to-day there is almost no locality that will not produce some one variety of plums to perfection. It has taken us a long time to find this out. Farmers put in orchards of the Domesticas (European plums) and succeeded with them in some parts of the country. But in other sections they did not succeed, and it was at once concluded that the attempt to grow plums was folly and an expense that could give no returns. But since that time a good many varieties have been introduced from Japan and other countries, and in this country the Wild Goose and Americanas have been brought to a condition of size and quality that entirely change the prospects.

The very regions that cannot grow the Domesticas and the Japanese plums grow the Americanas in great abundance. Of these there are now more than 100 varieties. Some of them, like the Bayard, are of most excellent plum favor and of good size. New varieties are being brought out every year, and it is safe to predict that in ten years more we will have plums of the Americana family as large and meaty as the old Lombard.

Uniform Fruit.

The orchardist that has fruit to dispose of will find it to his advantage to have the fruit that he is selling uniform. Uniformity has a value in the eyes of the buyer. That gentleman is looking for a package of fruit, whether in barrel or box, that is one thing all the way through. It is, therefore, a mistake to mix large and small apples. The man that has a good deal of money and wants to buy apples for his family will buy the large apples, and he does not want a lot of small ones mixed in with them. The man that is keeping a boarding house or hotel or the man that has little money and a large family will buy the smaller apples and he does not want the big ones mixed in. Many a widow buys the small apples, as they go further among the children. She, like the hotel keeper, reasons that "an apple is an apple."

Personal Reputation.

Every fruit grower that has much fruit to dispose of can make a personal reputation if he sets out to do so. It requires, however, honesty of package and quality of fruit. First and last, the man that creates this kind of a reputation gets a little above the market price. It may only average five per cent, but that is all gain and is in addition to the profit that he would make even at ordinary prices. Buyers are looking for the man that has enough pride and business acumen to want to secure for himself an unsullied reputation in the matter of his commercial transactions. They are more ready to deal with that kind of a man than with any other.



Model Dairies.

Those are model dairies where milk is produced and handled that is as clean and wholesome as milk can be made; the cows are in good condition, free from disease in any stage, and frequently examined by a skilled veterinarian, who removes from the herd any suspected animals; none but wholesome feeds are used; the stable is abundantly lighted and well ventilated, often thoroughly cleaned and kept in a correct sanitary condition; the cows are kept clean and comfortable; the attendants are healthy and cleanly; all utensils are sterilized daily; great care is taken to protect the milk from contamination; the milk is promptly cooled, and it should contain less than one one-thousandth part as many bacteria as are found in much of the milk regularly sold in cities and towns.

A model dairy does not require a large outlay of capital, but it requires a keen intelligence and unremitting care in its management. Some increase in running expense is necessary, as would be expected. Such dairies are few, but their number is slowly increasing. One of the chief reasons why they do not increase more rapidly is that the public does not appreciate the advantages of their product and seems unwilling to pay a slightly advanced price for it. If the question were generally understood, there would be such a demand for high-grade milk at fair prices that model dairies would quickly come to be the rule instead of the exception. When consumers are willing to pay enough to encourage dairymen to exercise close supervision over their cows and to take all of the precaution necessary to insure milk of high quality and purity, from both chemical and bacteriological standpoints, and will insist on having such milk, then that kind will be amply supplied. It is the duty of dairymen themselves to help bring about this condition. Milk is cheaper than most other foods (even when it is sold at an advanced price made necessary by extra care in its production), and for this reason, as well as others, it is well suited to form a large part of the dietary.—U. S. Dept. of Agri.

Killing of Peach Buds.

The killing of peach buds is due directly to the low temperature to which they are subjected. There is, however, another reason or cause that is indirect, but is very important, and that is the swelling of the buds in the warm days in winter. In other words the more perfectly dormant the buds are the greater degrees of cold can they endure without being injured. A good many cultivators have made the mistake of late cultivating their trees whether a crop of peaches was on them or not. It makes a difference whether the trees are bearing fruit or not at time of being cultivated. In the case of a tree heavily loaded with fruit the late summer cultivation merely helps develop the fruit more and the extra food supplied the trees does not therefore go entirely into the developing of buds. But it is always the case that some trees in the peach orchard have few or no peaches on them, and such trees take all the surplus food given them and put it into the making of buds for the next year. The buds thus developed are more susceptible to the effects of frost than are those that are on the trees that had peaches. This makes a problem for the cultivator of the peach orchard. This is not so hard to solve in the years when all the trees have a crop of peaches or do not have a crop of peaches, but is especially hard to solve in the years when the crop is irregularly distributed in the orchard.